

As many of you will already be aware the launch event of The Forest for Cornwall is being held at Tincombe at the end of November during National Tree Week. The aim is to plant 100 trees in keeping with 'the right trees in the right places' principle in partnership with the Woodland Trust. I will be meeting with the officers regarding this event on 30th October and should be able to provide more detail during the council meeting.

Works for phase one of the walking and cycling project are either ongoing or scheduled. The last set of roadworks are expected to finish in early to mid January, full details of these planned roadworks can be found at <https://one.network/>

Consultation on Phase Two of the project will be published on 31st October. The plan to prevent vehicles turning right out of Gilston Road has been removed, although the idea did receive a small amount of support this was outweighed by a large number of objections. The suggested one-way system on parts of Longview Road is also going to be removed for similar reasons. The rest of the scheme which starts at the top of Longstone Park and runs along the north of Callington Road up to the junction with Liskeard/New Road and the section near Gilston Road is planned to start in January or February. This will include shared paths for pedestrians and cyclists, altered junctions on the northern side of Callington Road plus a mini roundabout and crossing for pedestrians at the junction with Plougastel Drive.

Documents for each of the phases can be found on the links below:

Phase 1:

https://engagespace.co.uk/cornwall/consultation_Dtl.aspx?consult_Id=1823&status=4&criteria=

Phase 2:

https://engagespace.co.uk/cornwall/consultation_Dtl.aspx?consult_Id=1870&status=3&criteria=

(This link may change on 31st October)

Work replacing kerbs and waterproofing on the southern cantilever at the bridge continues, the contractors original timeline has been extended several times as they have had problems achieving the standard of welding required which can only be tested after the work on each bolt has been completed and requires replacing if substandard. The minibus service will continue until the work has been completed on all of the kerbs along the bridge and vehicles no longer need to use the southern cantilever.

A decision on raising the barriers along the **full length** of the bridge has been reached. The unanimous decision made by the eight Plymouth & Cornwall councillors attending the meeting including myself was to not increase the height of the barriers along the full length of the bridge. This was an incredibly difficult decision, many councillors if not all felt that this was the hardest decision they had ever been asked to make on any committee. We heard evidence from members of the public on both sides of the bridge as well as professionals in suicide prevention and the emergency services. To summarise: a higher barrier whilst making it harder to climb would make self rescue (which almost all do) much harder. The raised height would deter most who would attempt to climb but the evidence we had from other locations that have already raised their barriers is that someone considering taking their own life would instead choose another location. No other location in the area has the prevention measures that are in place on the bridge which include support staff with specialist training, dedicated 24/7 CCTV, lighting and signage as recommended by the Samaritans. Several residents will strongly disagree with the decision but it seemed clear from all of the evidence that we collected that raising the height of the barriers would not reduce suicides but only move the problem to high places nearby. We are still looking at measures to prevent suicide and antisocial behaviour on both ends of the bridge particularly at the Saltash end, with raising the barriers on sections of the bridge still being considered.