Welsh Government
Consultation Document

A470 Caersws Bridge - Pedestrian safety improvements

Date of issue: 08 November 2017
Action required: Responses by 31 January 2018
Overview

The North and Mid Wales Trunk Road Agent, on behalf of the Welsh Government is currently investigating options to address pedestrian safety concerns at the existing A470 trunk road bridge in the village of Caersws.

We wish to seek your views on the trial and possible improvement options.

How to respond

Please complete and return the ‘response form questionnaire’ to the address below by 31st January 2018.

Further information and related documents

Large print, Braille and alternative language versions of this document are available on request.

The document is available on:

Contact details

For further information:

Email: CaerswsConsultation@gwynedd.gov.uk - Please include ‘Caersws Consultation’ in the subject line.

Post:
FREEPOST
Welsh Government
Sarn Mynach
Llandudno Junction
Conwy
LL31 9RZ

Data protection

How the views and information you give us will be used

Any response you send us will be seen in full by Welsh Government staff dealing with the issues which this consultation is about. It may also be seen by other Welsh Government staff to help them plan future consultations.

We intend to publish a summary of the responses to this document. We may also publish responses in full. Normally, the name and address (or part of the address) of the person or organisation who sent the response are published with the response. This helps to show that the consultation was carried out properly.
If you do not want your name or address published, please tell us this in writing when you send your response. We will then blank them out.

Names or addresses we blank out might still get published later, though we do not think this would happen very often. The Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 allow the public to ask to see information held by many public bodies, including the Welsh Government. This includes information which has not been published. However, the law also allows us to withhold information in some circumstances. If anyone asks to see information we have withheld, we will have to decide whether to release it or not. If someone has asked for their name and address not to be published, that is an important fact we would take into account. However, there might sometimes be important reasons why we would have to reveal someone’s name and address, even though they have asked for them not to be published. We would get in touch with the person and ask their views before we finally decided to reveal the information.
Introduction

The North and Mid Wales Trunk Road Agent, on behalf of the Welsh Government is currently investigating options to address pedestrian safety concerns at the existing A470 trunk road bridge in the village of Caersws.

The improvement options currently being considered are:

- provide additional signage (pedestrian warning signs) and road marking (ARAF/SLOW)
- permanent traffic signal control, single file traffic lane and footway on the road bridge
- construction of a new footbridge attached to the existing grade 2 listed bridge
- construction of a new stand-alone footbridge

This consultation seeks your views on:

- pedestrian safety issues on the existing Caersws bridge
- the improvement options for a pedestrian link
- the ‘traffic signal control’ trial held in May 2017

Location plan

![Location Map of Caersws and surrounding area](image)

Background

Situated on the A470, one of the main North – South trunk roads linking Cardiff to Glan Conwy, the village of Caersws is also located on the River Severn in the county of Powys, approximately 5 miles west of Newtown. The majority of Caersws’ population lives to the North of the River Severn and its recreation ground is located to the South of the River Severn. Any pedestrians wishing to access the ground by foot or walk south of Caersws have to cross the Caersws Bridge, which is a narrow listed structure with two-way traffic flows. There is currently no dedicated footway for pedestrian use. Concerns have been expressed over pedestrian safety at Caersws Bridge.
Development

Various improvement options have been considered and a Feasibility Study produced.

A temporary CCTV system was installed on the bridge to capture queue length and pedestrian movement between the 31st March and the 16th May 2017. Data was analysed between 7am and 7pm.

Pedestrian Movement: It was identified that on average around 15 pedestrians will use the bridge to cross the River Severn daily. The pedestrian usage peaks to around 90 a day when there is an event at the recreation ground or a Car Boot Sale (located south of the bridge).

Vehicular Queue Length: Most vehicles will slow down on both bridge approaches and are able to pass each other slowly along the narrow bridge. Vehicles may need to give way to large oncoming vehicles, causing slight congestion with an average of 2 vehicles queuing on the southbound bridge approach, and an average of 2 vehicles queuing on the northbound approach. Vehicle queuing occurrences peak during the working week as more heavy goods vehicles use the route.

‘Traffic signal control’ trial

One option considered in the feasibility study is to construct a dedicated footway on the bridge, reducing the two-way traffic lane to a single traffic lane, under permanent traffic control.

In order to test the impact of the ‘traffic signal control’ option on the A470 traffic flows, a trial using temporary traffic lights at both approaches to the bridge was in effect from 2nd May to 16th May 2017. A single file traffic lane and a segregated pedestrian path was in operation on the bridge.

Vehicular queue length: The traffic signal control caused traffic queuing averaging between 3 to 4 vehicles at both bridge approaches during the day. However, queues of 10-15 vehicles were observed at times during the trial. As the traffic control necessitates vehicles to stop, the number of queuing occurrences is higher than without traffic control.

We wish to seek your views on the trial and possible improvement options.