

Alliance - questions on Cleveland Bridge – B&NES Webinar 29 Mar 21

B&NES held a webinar on 29th March, chaired by the Council Leader, about the access and diversion arrangements for the imminent closure of Cleveland Bridge due to its need for vital repairs. It can be viewed on the Council's YouTube feed. There were many questions, but the Alliance thought the following two were the most important (and so asked them):

- At present there is a temporary 18t limit on the bridge: this seems to have had some effect on the quantity and weight of traffic crossing it, and the pollution. So, what progress is there in making this weight limit permanent?

Answer (by Officer Gary Peacock): As the bridge is part of the nation's Primary Road Network (joining the A36 and A46) this restriction has to be removed once the repairs are complete. However, the Dept for Transport is funding a study to consider revisions to this network in collaboration with adjoining Councils, through the Western Gateway Regional Transport Board.

- As part of the diversion plans, what measures will be taken to enforce the 7.5t weight limit in George Street to ensure that HGVs do not go through Bath via Queen Square?

Answer (by Officer Gary Peacock): Enforcement is being discussed with Avon & Somerset Police, being the only Authority legally allowed to pursue Moving Traffic Offences outside London. The weight of any vehicle can be provided by DVLA through ANPR interrogation.

Robin Kerr, 30th Mar 21