



North Tyneside Council

Reference: FOI0771

**Request:**

**I have read with interest that the Planning Committee is delaying it's decision to demolish Borough Road Footbridge. I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information from North Tyneside Council:**

**Can you advise me what steps the council intends to undertake to consult the local community, users and national associations who are involved in preserving our heritage.**

Public and other stakeholder consultation has been completed and the details can be found among the documents on the planning application at

<https://idoxpublicaccess.northtyneside.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?keyVal=PH54OMBHMY200&activeTab=summary>

Please refer specifically to the Consultation and Feasibility Report. No further consultation is planned unless advised by the Planning Department as the planning application process progresses.

**Does the council intend to perform further structural inspections and structural assessments of the bridge and the masonry walls that retain the cutting and further pedestrian and traffic surveys of both the footbridge and the propose crossing?**

No

**Are the council aware that sections of the original timber bridge still exist and have they considered the significance of this with regard to the heritage and history of North Shields? Does the council know who the structural engineer for the original timber bridge and current steel structure were?**

In response to all two questions above, North Tyneside Council has no records of a Timber Bridge built at this location. The available Heritage Impact Assessment Report identifies the presence of a locally known 'Iron Bridge', built circa 1850's to maintain the route atop the bank following the creation of the 'New Cut - Borough Road' during the same period.

Whilst it is appreciated that a bridge of timber construction may have existed, the original bridge was since removed around the 1930's and replaced with the steel lattice footbridge seen today. The current footbridge is not the original footbridge and no timber sections remain on site.

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**Do the council think they should return part of that bridge to North Shields and put it on permanent display?**

Under the Freedom of Information Act you have a right to request any recorded information held by a public authority.

The above question is not a request for information as per section 8(1) of the FOI Act, in which it states that a valid request for information is a request which, among other criteria, “describes the information requested.”

Information is defined in section 84 of the Act as “information recorded in any form.”

It is posed as a question of the Council and does not actually describe recorded information. It appears that the Applicant of the request would reasonably expect the Council to respond with its opinion and explanation, not with specific recorded information.

The Council therefore has no obligation to respond to this question under the Act and this part of the request is therefore refused.

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