



**TRAFNIDIAETH
CYMRU
TRANSPORT
FOR WALES**

3 Llys Cadwyn
Pontypridd
Rhondda Cynon Taf CF37 4TH
029 2167 3434
cyswllt@trc.cymru
trc.cymru

3 Llys Cadwyn
Pontypridd
Rhondda Cynon Taf CF37 4TH
029 2167 3434
contact@tfw.wales
tfw.wales

Ms Ceri Mortimer,
Cyngor Cymuned | Gelligaer Community Council
Swyddfa y Cyngor | Council Office, Llwyn Onn, Penpedairheol
Hengoed, CF82 8BB

Reference: Mr James Price CEO TfW - Tynygraig footbridge replacement

Date: 24 February 2022

Dear Ceri,

Thank you for writing to me sharing the frustration that the Community Council and local residents feel regarding progress on the replacement of Tynygraig footbridge in Llanbradach.

I empathise completely with the community's frustration, given that the process has taken far longer than both myself and my Transport for Wales colleagues had anticipated. For this, we offer our sincere apologies. I would like to reassure councillors and the community that, after several setbacks, progress is now well underway on the permanent replacement structure.

Our partners at Amey updated us on the project before Christmas, providing an outline plan with an estimated completion date of April 2023. Given that the bridge has now been removed for the best part of two years, both my colleagues and I made it clear that this is far longer than we would like. We are therefore pushing our contractors to explore ways to reduce the provided timescale, returning the bridge to community use at the earliest practicable opportunity.

The most recent updates I can share are as follows. The project currently remains in the design phase with a view to submitting the first planning applications in the coming weeks. Transport for Wales wants to ensure that the replacement bridge is sustainable and resilient, allowing it to serve the community well into the future.

There are several location-specific challenges that the team are having to factor into the design, which are further compounded by the need to develop a structure that is broadly similar to the original whilst meeting modern standards and regulations. I've been assured that our contractors



**TRAFNIDIAETH
CYMRU
TRANSPORT
FOR WALES**

3 Llys Cadwyn
Pontypridd
Rhondda Cynon Taf CF37 4TH
029 2167 3434
cyswllt@trc.cymru
trc.cymru

3 Llys Cadwyn
Pontypridd
Rhondda Cynon Taf CF37 4TH
029 2167 3434
contact@tfw.wales
tfw.wales

are currently finalising one that addresses these requirements, and we are working collaboratively with relevant parties to progress forward.

Following recent updates by our contractors, we have taken the decision not to progress with the interim temporary option. The reason for this is because any such structure would only have a very limited lifespan under the outline timescales provided for the project. Although this could be extended, it would consequently delay the start of the preparation works necessary for the permanent replacement. After nearly two years and the previous setbacks, we would not wish to delay this any longer, not least for the community's sake, and therefore consider this the best course of action.

In the coming weeks the first planning applications should hopefully serve to reassure the community that we are making progress. I know that the project has taken far longer than anyone first anticipated, and both myself and my colleagues empathise and share the community's frustration. However, whilst it might not necessarily seem apparent from current evidence on the ground, progress is being made, and we are working hard to achieve the replacement permanent structure sooner rather than later.

Moving forward, we want to share the latest progress with the community. Therefore, my Community and Stakeholder Engagement colleagues are planning to host an open day soon where there will be an opportunity to both find out more about the latest updates on the project and meet those involved. They will provide you with further information about this as soon as it becomes available.

Once again, thank you for contacting me to share the concerns and frustrations shared by both the Community Council and local residents. I hope the above information is of use to the Council and community. However, if you have any further questions then please feel free to get in touch.

Yours sincerely

James Price

Prif Weithredwr | Chief Executive Officer

Trafnidiaeth Cymru | Transport for Wales