Pont Llanerch:

Well-being Impact Assessment Report

This report summarises the likely impact of the proposal on the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Denbighshire, Wales and the world.

Assessment Number: 1441

Brief description: This is an assessment of the impact of the options regarding Pont Llanerch which collapsed following a storm in 2021

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Completed by: Paul Jackson

Responsible Service: Highways and Environmental Services

Localities affected by the proposal: Elwy,

Who will be affected by the proposal? The residents of Tremeirchion and the surrounding area as well as commuters who may have historically used the bridge prior to its collapse

Was this impact assessment completed as a group? Yes

Who has been involved in the development of this impact assessment? Andy Raynor - Asset and Risk Manager

Summary and Conclusion

Before we look in detail at the contribution and impact of the proposal, it is important to consider how the proposal is applying the sustainable development principle. This means that we must act "in a manner which seeks to ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

Score for the sustainability of the approach

3 out of 4 stars

Actual score : 29 / 36.

Summary for each Sustainable Development principle

Long term

Not rebuilding the bridge will potentially increase the the CO2 emissions of commuters wishing to travel through and around the area. We will aim to minimise the impact by improving the alternative routes in the area so they are better suited to commuter traffic if the decision is to not rebuild. We have applied for extra funding to improve the surrounding highways network to try to achieve this aim. Currently the diversion route has taken a significant toll on it due to four years worth of increased traffic. This funding has been sought to alleviate this issue. If the decision is to build to build the bridge then all options regarding sustainability and CO2 impact/reduction of the construction process will be considered.

Prevention

Not building the bridge does have a negative impact on the community in the vicinity of the bridge and their travel options. However by improving the surrounding highway network we would aim to minimise this negative impact. Building the bridge will have an environmental impact during the construction phase but could lead to better connected communities by re-establishing the severed travel link.

Integration

If the decision is to not rebuild the bridge, we would aim to make safe and make good the

embankment and remaining structure. DCC could work with the local community on the potential to make this an area of interest or local tourist destination site thus maximising possible local business/commercial opportunities. Rebuilding the bridge will lead to better integrated communities either side of the river by re-establishing the direct link.

Collaboration

We have fully engaged with Dwr Cymru, Welsh Government as well as internal stakeholders to discuss options for this area before making any possible suggestions for action.

Involvement

Thus far we have fully engaged at all levels including residents groups, local Council Members, MPs, Dwr Cymru and Welsh Government. Once we have an official decision we intend to fully engage again at all levels regarding the agreed position.

Summary of impact

Well-being Goals	Overall impact
A prosperous Denbighshire	Neutral
A resilient Denbighshire	Neutral
A healthier Denbighshire	Neutral
A more equal Denbighshire	Neutral
A Denbighshire of cohesive communities	Neutral
A Denbighshire of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language	Neutral
A globally responsible Denbighshire	Neutral

Main conclusions

Not building the bridge will have an impact on the connectivity between the communities either side of the river but will remove the potential environmental impact of any construction work and allow for the maintenance of the current tranquillity of the area. It is intended to try and reduce this connectivity impact by improving the alternative local highway routes in the area.

Building the bridge improves local transport links and restores the connectivity between communities however, it creates significant risk to the local water supply and the local environment.

The likely impact on Denbighshire, Wales and the world

A prosperous Denbighshire

Overall Impact

Neutral

Justification for impact

The alternative route is relatively short and we would aim to make significant improvements to it to make it more suitable as a long term commuter option, if the bridge is not rebuilt. Rebuilding the bridge will restore the previous transport link.

Further actions required

If the decision is to not build the bridge we would look to improve the surrounding highway network to offset the potential issues created.

Positive impacts identified:

A low carbon society

If the bridge is not built then improvements can be made to the alternative routes. This could potentially reduce the impact of commuters having to use the official diversion route.
Rebuilding the bridge will establish the previous link and return CO2 impact to levels seen prior to the collapse.

Quality communications, infrastructure and transport

Not building the bridge and possible improvements to the wider local highway infrastructure has the possible positive benefit of improving the commuter experience.
Rebuilding the bridge will shorten journey times for commuters as it would be a wider bridge design than the previous due to modern design standards.

Economic development

N/A

Quality skills for the long term

N/A

Quality jobs for the long term

N/A

Childcare

N/A

Negative impacts identified:

A low carbon society

Not building the bridge potentially increases the CO2 impact of commuters due to a direct highway link for both sides of the river not being re-established.
Rebuilding the bridge to a better design could encourage more traffic and thus a higher CO2 impact with the added CO2 impact of the construction process.

Quality communications, infrastructure and transport

Failure to re-establish the direct link will potentially lead to longer commuter journeys for people wishing to travel in the area.

Economic development

N/A

Quality skills for the long term

N/A

Quality jobs for the long term

N/A

Childcare

N/A

A resilient Denbighshire

Overall Impact

Neutral

Justification for impact

Building the bridge improves direct transport links but has a greater environmental impact in the location. Not building the bridge reduces the environmental impact in the short term by removing the construction process but increases commuter distances and the long term CO2 impact of these journeys.

Further actions required

There are very few, if any, negative impacts on the local biodiversity by not building the bridge. Building the bridge creates a significant environmental issue during the construction phase.

Positive impacts identified:

Biodiversity and the natural environment

The primary positives come from a decision to not build the bridge. Not building the bridge allows for the TPOs to remain on the trees in the location and avoids any negative landscape effects of building a new bridge. Not building the bridge also, most importantly, removes any risk to the geological asset i.e. the water aquifer and any associated risks to the local drinking water supply.

Biodiversity in the built environment

The proposed new bridge is considerably larger than the original due to design requirements. Not building the bridge removes this issue.

Reducing waste, reusing and recycling

N/A

Reduced energy/fuel consumption

By not building the bridge we can avoid any detrimental impact to the environment that the construction would have produced in terms of labour, plant and material requirements.
Building the bridge has the potential benefit of reducing the CO2 impact of commuter traffic.

People's awareness of the environment and biodiversity

N/A

Flood risk management

Removal of the bridge reduces a pinch point of the natural river flow and reduces any risk to life when a further flood event occurs in the area.
The bridge design has been created with culverts to try to mitigate any issues with flood risk

Negative impacts identified:

Biodiversity and the natural environment

Rebuilding the bridge will lead to the removal of TPOs, the cutting down of trees in the vicinity and a considerable CO2 impact of the construction process. The proposed design is not in keeping with the natural environment and could lead to increased noise pollution due to increased traffic.

Biodiversity in the built environment

Building it would have a significant impact local biodiversity if it was to be built due to the size and scale of the construction process and end result.

Reducing waste, reusing and recycling

N/A

Reduced energy/fuel consumption

Not building the bridge increases commuter journey time and distance and therefore CO2 impact.

People's awareness of the environment and biodiversity

N/A

Flood risk management

None

A healthier Denbighshire

Overall Impact

Neutral

Justification for impact

Not building the bridge makes the area safer for walking or cycling but may impact some health care transport providers looking to access the area. The opposite is true if the bridge is built.

Further actions required

Improving the local highway infrastructure could offset any possible negative impacts of not building the bridge.

Positive impacts identified:

A social and physical environment that encourage and support health and well-being

By not building the bridge we remove vehicular traffic from the area and make it more suitable as a walking or cycling destination.

Access to good quality, healthy food

N/A

People's emotional and mental well-being

N/A

Access to healthcare

Building the bridge re-establishes the previous direct links to the wider communities and healthcare provision

Participation in leisure opportunities

N/A

Negative impacts identified:

A social and physical environment that encourage and support health and well-being

Building the bridge creates a much improved route than the previous bridge allowed for thus increasing traffic counts beyond the previous levels. This potentially increases noise and greenhouse gas pollution issues in the area.

Access to good quality, healthy food

N/A

People's emotional and mental well-being

N/A

Access to healthcare

There may be a minimal potential impact on ambulances or health care transport services trying to travel through the area, this however will be offset by improving the local highway network

Participation in leisure opportunities

N/A

A more equal Denbighshire

Overall Impact

Neutral

Justification for impact

This proposal has no impact in this area of consideration

Further actions required

This proposal has no impact in this area of consideration

Positive impacts identified:

Advancing equality and improving the well-being of people with protected characteristics, including fostering good relations between people with protected characteristics and those without. The nine protected characteristics are: age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage or civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; and sexual orientation

N/A

Advancing equality and improving the well-being of people who suffer discrimination or disadvantage

N/A

Advancing equality and improving the well-being of people affected by socio-economic disadvantage and unequal outcomes

N/A

Areas affected by socio-economic disadvantage

N/A

Negative impacts identified:

Advancing equality and improving the well-being of people with protected characteristics, including fostering good relations between people with protected characteristics and those

without. The nine protected characteristics are: age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage or civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; and sexual orientation

N/A

Advancing equality and improving the well-being of people who suffer discrimination or disadvantage

N/A

Advancing equality and improving the well-being of people affected by socio-economic disadvantage and unequal outcomes

N/A

Areas affected by socio-economic disadvantage

N/A

A Denbighshire of cohesive communities

Overall Impact

Neutral

Justification for impact

The decision to not build the bridge will not re-establish direct connectivity with communities either side of the bridge however this could be offset by local highway improvement works. The opposite is true if the bridge is built.

Further actions required

The decision to not build the bridge will not re-establish direct connectivity with communities either side of the bridge however this could be offset by local highway improvement works.

Positive impacts identified:

Safe communities and individuals

N/A

Community participation and resilience

N/A

The attractiveness of the area

Not building the bridge maintains local TPOs and maintains the current tranquillity and reduced noise pollution level of the area. There are no positives associated with building the bridge for this area of consideration.

Connected communities

Building the bridge means that the direct link between the communities either side of the bridge is re-established.

Rural resilience

If the bridge is not built improvements to the local highway infrastructure should improve the associated commute on the surrounding roads. Building the bridge provides more resilience by re-establishing the old link.

Negative impacts identified:

Safe communities and individuals

N/A

Community participation and resilience

N/A

The attractiveness of the area

Building the bridge that has been designed would not be in keeping with the area. It would also require significant tree felling activity.

Connected communities

Not building the bridge means that the direct link between the communities either side of the bridge remains severed

Rural resilience

Not building the bridge means those in the immediate vicinity of the area and local commuters will have a longer commute if wishing to travel through the area.

A Denbighshire of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language

Overall Impact

Neutral

Justification for impact

N/A

Further actions required

N/A

Positive impacts identified:

People using Welsh

N/A

Promoting the Welsh language

N/A

Culture and heritage

N/A

Negative impacts identified:

People using Welsh

N/A

Promoting the Welsh language

N/A

Culture and heritage

N/A

A globally responsible Denbighshire

Overall Impact

Neutral

Justification for impact

Not building the bridge removes any risk to the aquifer from the associated construction activity. This is a significant positive which cannot be understated. Damage to the aquifer would be catastrophic to the local water supply and is a real risk if the bridge is built.

Further actions required

Negative impacts of not building the bridge could be offset by aims to improve the local highway network. Damage to the aquifer is possibly irreversible and potentially catastrophic.

Positive impacts identified:

Local, national, international supply chains

If the bridge is not built, alternative highway routes will be improved (subject to funding being agreed)

making them more suitable as longer term supply routes. Building the bridge reinstates the previous supply links.

Human rights

N/A

Broader service provision in the local area or the region

Not building the bridge removes the risk to the aquifer and as such removes any construction associated risks to the local water supply. Damage to the aquifer could be significant.

Reducing climate change

There would be no associated impact on the environment of not building the bridge

Negative impacts identified:

Local, national, international supply chains

If the bridge is not built, local businesses in the vicinity of the bridge may have to continue to use alternative routes for their operations

Human rights

N/A

Broader service provision in the local area or the region

Building the bridge creates a significant risk to the aquifer which has been classed as a high risk water supply asset.

Reducing climate change

Displaced traffic has further to travel. Construction of the bridge creates significant environmental and infrastructure challenges and significant risk to the local water supply