

New Elvet Bridge October update transcript

[Alan Patrickson, Corporate Director Neighbourhoods and Climate Change]

[Alan Patrickson] Pleased to say that we have got some really good progress on the new Elvet Bridge project.

As you can see behind me the contractors are on site, they have got they have got the compound made, and they've made some really good progress taking off the road surface and the sub-base underneath that, and also the pavement that was on the side of the pedestrian pavement.

[Film Clip: Clip of the fenced off exposed road service. Clip of scaffolding on the bridge.]

[Alan Patrickson] You can see also, probably, just behind me that we're starting to get some scaffolding built, some form work, so that the teams can work underneath the bridge and really start getting into the maintenance project that we need to complete.

[Film Clip: Clips of scaffolding below Elvet Bridge.]

[Damien Jones, Contract Engineer, Balvac]

[Damien Jones] So we took the bridge mainly, one to inspect the concrete underneath the road pavement that was existing there.

[Film Clip: Computer simulation of the work being undertaken on the bridge.]

[Damien Jones] And also to make the bridge lighter because the centre section of bridge is going to be completely lifted off the, the two soffits on either side, the north and the south side, and that is going enable us to carry out the hydro demolition works on the half joints and do the concrete repairs.

[Image Picture of a worker wearing safety equipment working underground.]

[Damien Jones] Work started on the internal cells both on the north end and the south end. It's very dark, very dusty, very cramped in those confined space works. And we've got specialist foreman on site who is managing those works, you know working with me up in the office, issuing permits, ensuring that the risk assessments are in place and that the guys are safe working in that confined space.

[Film Clip. Speeded up aerial film clip of traffic going around a roundabout.]

[Alan Patrickson] The project is on programme; some really good progress being made. We've got traffic management in place, obviously the bridge is closed you can't get across it, but the traffic management seems to be working really well. Not only that but we are taking feedback all the time and adapting it as we can as we have done over the summer months. So, Durham city very much open for business, very much accessible.

This is a really unprecedented time, and we have been supporting businesses in the city centre.

[Text: Video taken before local lockdown instructions in place.]

[Film Clip: Clip of people entering a bar. Clip of people walking down street in centre of Durham, many of the businesses have tables and chairs outside their premises.]

[Alan Patrickson] Obviously social distancing is still very important, it's a very important health message for everyone to remember, and by allowing tables and chairs on the pavement, allowing them here on Old Elvet Bridge, we are hopefully enabling business to keep that social distancing while still allowing them to operate, and still allowing members of the public to enjoy the city and enjoy a nice time here.

[Film clip: Shot of boats on the River Wear.]

[Text: www.durham.gov.uk/newelvet Find out more]