# **Logierait Bridge Company**

**Chairman's Report 26th June 2023**

At the outset of my report to members I wish to offer my thanks to the other members of the Board for their continued support of me and the Board, for their efforts in the maintenance of the bridge, and their championing of the bridge in our community. A number of challenges have been addressed during the year.

Shortly after last year's AGM work began to replace several of the surface boards which had either rotted or bowed and helped to produce the noise as a vehicle passed over them. The necessary closure of the bridge to allow the work to be done was I am pleased to say much quicker than we anticipated and the predicted six week evening closure was achieved in just three weeks.

Sadly it was necessary to remove two mature Ash trees from the western end of the bridge approach when they were diagnosed with Ash die back. These have now been replaced with some fruit tree whips, a quince, apples, pear and plum. Once mature their fruit will be available to anyone who wishes to collect it. It is anticipated that where there is space more trees will be planted in the future.

As requested at last year's AGM highlighting of the speed bumps was carried out last summer but will require regular replacement and plans are in place for this going forward.

After optimistically predicting the repair of the south east pilaster last year unfortunately the contractor had second thoughts and the project cost eye watering. At least the situation is now stable as the tree doing the damage is now dead.

Sadly as the result of an accident on the A9 last summer the bridge and the B898 became grid locked. The only way members of the bridge committee know that there is a problem is when those living nearby recognise the increase in traffic. Attempts in the past to involve Police Scotland informing us of a problem were rejected, as understandably they did not consider it an operational priority. Chaos is inevitable in these circumstances, and I understand how members and others may be frustrated when a closure occurs. The fact is, as a single track road large numbers of cars cannot cross in both directions. Most of those who were on or close to the bridge understood the problem and welcomed advice on an alternative route. Not all however and the abuse of those trying their best was disappointing.

On a brighter note, in September, it was a pleasure to welcome guests from Sustrans, The Griffin Community Project and Perth and Kinross council , all have whom have supported the bridge with projects or financially. Entertained with tea they were able to see and understand the importance of the bridge to our community.

Some of you may be aware of an SGN project to lay a new gas main from Birnham along the B898 to the SGN site adjacent to the bridge and will involve laying the main down the western approach road to the bridge. The work cannot be safely undertaken with the bridge open. Intermittent road closure along the B898 are likely to take place over a couple of years. Our section will require closure of the bridge access for a couple of weeks at least. At present the precise details are being worked out between our land agent and SGN's but we expect the work to be done in early 2024 or 2025.

On the back of discussions with SGN, the Board agreed that our title should be registered with Land Registry Scotland. A few problems arose, with inaccurate adjacent titles and that the description on the original Feu Disposition does not actually reflect what is on the ground. What is intended is that the road access to both the B898 and A827 where clear and that we could ensure we had registered the title for the land over which the access roads and the bridge itself pass.

Clearly the cost of living crisis has an effect on all of us and we have seen a small number of members not renew their membership and the amount we received in donations has also fallen. As a result I believe it would be wrong to consider an increase in the subscription this year. However after holding the subscription for what will be five years some increase is inevitable in the future. May I thank all of you who continue to support our wonderful bridge and community asset.

Tony Burgess

Chair

27 June 2023