

## **Update from West Sussex County Council on Eaton's Bridge**

West Sussex County Council apologises for the delay in replacing the bridge between Eaton's Farm, Ashurst and Catsfold Farm, Henfield. The bridge was closed in December 2014 following an engineering assessment that found the four piles that support the bridge were suffering from wet rot, with one pile being in very poor condition. Further investigation established there was significant section loss of the cross timbers supporting the deck. In the interest of public safety, the decision was taken to close the bridge.

Due to the age of the bridge it was not considered to be cost-effective to repair the structure as this would require significant ongoing maintenance. Instead, a replacement bridge has been designed using modern materials and which meets current standards. Installation of the new bridge is anticipated to be completed in Summer 2018.

In the meantime the bridge will remain closed to the public as it is unsafe to use. Unfortunately, despite the closure and warning signs and temporary fencing surrounding it, the bridge has continued to be used and walkers have been putting themselves in danger; it has therefore been necessary for the Council to remove the decking boards from the bridge to prevent further use.

The closest alternative bridge (Bineham Bridge) is located approximately 1km to the south. This can be accessed by the riverbank footpaths on either side of the River Adur.

Enquiries regarding the closure should be directed to the Public Rights of Way Team on 01243 777620 or by email to [pro@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:pro@westsussex.gov.uk), quoting the number of the footpath, Footpath 3625.