

# At last! The Bridge by-pass route is fixed

TEN years of agitation, petitions and sit-downs by the villagers of Bridge were rewarded this week with the official publication of the proposed route for the village by-pass. A two-mile by-pass is planned to ease the problem of traffic thundering through the village, which the Department of the Environment admits today (Friday) was: "Unpleasant and dangerous in the centre of the village community."

Cllr. Lawrence Shirley, of Bridge Parish Council, said yesterday "Of course we are very pleased to see something solid at last. It's marvellous to know that it is under way at last. Now it's vital to get the co-operation of all concerned to get this thing through as quickly as possible."

Bridge Parish Council was meeting last night to discuss the route.

On November 23 there will be a joint meeting between Bridge and Patricbourne (the neighbouring parish through which most of the by-pass would run) to enable each parish to put its view.

The plan was published simultaneously with the proposed route of the controversial Harbledown by-pass and both schemes will be on show in the villages on Friday and Saturday. The Bridge route will be displayed in the village hall and the Harbledown one in Vernon Holme School.

The Bridge by-pass would leave the existing A2 just east of the Canterbury city boundary and pass north-east of the village. Swinging eastwards, it would pass under Bekesbourne

Road as well as pass over the Rive Nailbourne and Patricbourne Road on a new bridge.

Then, turning south-eastwards it would run south of Highland Court, pass over the Frog Lane/Coldharbour Lane junction and rejoin the existing trunk road about 600 yards west of its junction with Rose Lane.

Dual carriageways 24 feet wide would be provided, with grass verges 12 feet wide and a central reservation 15 feet wide.

There would be no access to the by-pass except at its terminal points where it connects with the existing trunk road.

Ultimately, it is envisaged that a full by-pass of Canterbury will link the north-western end of the proposed Bridge by-pass with the proposed Upper Harbledown by-pass.

Copies of the Bridge route can also be seen at the offices of Kent County Council; Bridge-Blean Rural District Council; and at the Post Office, Bridge.

## Top level

Top level talks aimed at smoothing the way for future A2 improvements were held on Monday between Bridge-Blean Rural District Council, Kent County Council, Dover Town and Dover Rural District councils and the National Farmers' Union. Canterbury's M.P., Mr. David Crouch, presided.

They took place in the offices of Bridge-Blean Council, which although not responsible for the road, has done much of the behind-the-scenes work to hasten improvements.

After the two-hour discussion, Mr. Crouch told the "Kentish Gazette": "The meeting was very valuable. It showed how councils can come together and work very closely with the County Council.

"I am confident that if the spirit of co-operation we have seen at this meeting can continue, we can probably save a lot of time.

"Now it's up to me to get a Canterbury by-pass completed in four or five years, rather than seven or eight."

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