

**Appendix 2a. Summary of Comments forwarded from Kirsty Williams AM,
regarding Alexandra Road Footbridge in Llandrindod Wells**

Would like to see the bridge reopened as a lot of dog walkers used it, now they come past our house to go to the field via the Rock Park, their dogs leaving mess on the pavement. It is a good vantage point for the steam trains when they come through, which was no doubt a health and safety risk with the bridge in such poor condition. The council did have obligations under the previous agreement with BR.

Before it closed I used it just about every day to access Rock Park. It is both an inconvenience and an annoyance to us as local residents.

The footbridge of the railway line would seem to constitute an integral, if not essential, part of the footpath. To the best of my knowledge the bridge has not received any maintenance in the 15 years I have resided here. Until its closure last year it has been a well-used and safe way for residents and visitors to access the playing fields and recreational land that borders the railway line. Since its closure there has been a marked increase in children playing ball games in Alexandra Road, as well as an increase in the incidence of dog fouling on the road and pavement. The 'rough estimate' given is approximately 20 or 30 times the cost suggested by Network Rail's structural report; I conclude that PCC are looking to justify a decision to not honour the agreement between Radnorshire Council and BR.

This reinforces a local perception that Radnorshire is underfunded in comparison to Brecknock or Montgomery, with detriment to the local area. PCC may spend more money to demolish the existing structure than Network Rail suggest it would cost to repair.

The access across the railway is much missed by local residents. Surely the local council have broken the terms of their agreement to maintain the bridge in perpetuity. There seems to be an enormous discrepancy in the estimated costs of repair between Network Rail and the Council's estimates.

This bridge is badly missed. Surely if Network Rail can find vast sums of money for the many huge rail projects underway, a small amount of regular maintenance should not be a problem – we have iconic Victorian steel structures like the Forth bridge which is still in remarkable condition because of regular, ultimately cost saving attention. We should do more make do and mend that can be carried out by local firms to a high standard.

The footbridge is a genuine amenity making our life more pleasurable. It is an asset to the neighbourhood because it enables everyone to get direct access

to the playing field, including walkers and people taking their dogs for exercise.

The bridge made a very pleasant circular route through the Park. I have enjoyed the scenery and bird watching from this vantage. A community orchard has begun to be planted in the field just beyond the bridge, so this route would be convenient for this also.

Closing the bridge is another removal of Llandrindod's public facilities. For a little town with no way of existing or growing without tourism these actions are disastrous.

The bridge is well-used by all sorts of walkers – elderly people, dog walkers, children taking a short cut on the way home from school, people accessing the Rock Park, young footballers, picnickers, tourists on the Town Council self-guided walk leaflets.

The bridge is a great community asset. We and our children used the bridge to go over to the field, to play, cycle and walk dogs. It encouraged young people to get out of the house and run about.

The bridge was built by PCC so that the school children could get access to the playing field without a 10min walk down the road, the Railway company had nothing to do with its construction and did not contribute to its cost in any way, so the council cannot pass on any responsibility for its repair to the Railway.

About 3 years ago the County Council made an order with all the necessary Notices that a Footpath be set up from Montpellier Park over the bridge and into the School Field, so what is the legal position? Can the Council just ignore this footpath, or if they wished to rescind it would Notices have to be issued and displayed giving notice and/or Public Enquiry?

This bridge was used by dozens of people with and without dogs each day. Residents from the old peoples' flats, families with children etc. It was much more pleasant and safer for shoppers in the town centre to go home via the footpath behind the Commodore Hotel into the Rock Park or down the main entrance into the Rock Park, walk across the School Field, over the bridge and down to the Ridgebourne area; safer than crossing roads.

This bridge and its direct access to the Rock Park field was a major factor in our decision to move to Montpellier Park. We have 5 children who have used the bridge daily for 12 years. 2 dogs walked 3 times a day. The closure of the bridge, apart from the major inconvenience, has caused a huge increase in the amount of dog muck in the road. We have met many visitors to the town ascending into such a beautiful park, watched the sunset, and people flock to

stand on the bridge to watch the special steam trains go past. So many people in the neighbourhood want the bridge reopened, from OAPs at Alexandra Court to the young kids from the local nursery that used to be brought across it to play in the field as part of their daily exercise.

Appendix 2b. Email received from [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 16 July 2016 21:00
To: Sian Barnes (CSP - Countryside Services) < [REDACTED] >
Cc: Tom Turner (CSP - County Councillor) < [REDACTED] > Mark Stafford-Tolley (CSP - Countryside Services) < [REDACTED] >
Subject: Right of Way LL10(A), Montpellier Park Llandrindod

Dear Sian

As you are aware the right-of-way numbered LL10(A) is currently subject to a Traffic Regulation Order in force until 18th September 2016 or earlier at the point where it crosses the railway, due to the removal of the footbridge by Powys on or around 29th March this year. We understand you have received a feasibility report on the matter from Gwynedd County Engineers. We would strongly support the provision of a replacement footbridge as until its temporary closure the Right-of-Way was well used, and in addition to affording access to the playing field/public open space and the Rock Park, the route now leads to the community orchard. As the report has not been made public yet we do not know its contents, but would comment that although it is desirable wherever possible to provide step-free access, the remainder of the right-of-way is a muddy field which the Council additionally appears to have discontinued mowing, so wheelchair access by that route is in effect impossible, if that is an option that the report considers. Any attempt to extinguish the right-of-way would be strongly opposed by users and result in an expensive and protracted public enquiry.

We would ask that you pass these comments to the relevant Portfolio Councillors.

Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Llandrindod [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]