

### Replacement Sparling Bridge

#### Sparling Bridge Update

The time required to undertake a tender process, appoint a contractor, and give them sufficient time to mobilise and prepare the site, would not leave a sufficient period to carry out any meaningful work before the construction period ends (the SEPA licence to work in a river environment expires at the end of September).

The decision has therefore been taken to postpone the building of the bridge until next year. It is proposed that we will proceed with appointing a contractor, with site preparation to take place in March/April 2019 enabling the main construction to commence in May 2019.

Whilst we fully appreciate that this will mean Newton Stewart will remain without a dedicated pedestrian/cycle bridge again this year we feel that this postponement will ultimately lead to the provision of a substantially improved project.

#### Project Improvements from a longer timespan:

- Longer lead in time allowing better planning of works.
- Likely to receive lower tender prices given less disruption/constraints.
- End product of much higher quality.
- Construction during 'best weather' months and maximise SEPA licence window.
- Additional lead in time will allow further review of the project to ensure maximum co-ordination and tie-in with the design of the main flood protection scheme.

#### Timeline

JUNE 2018	• Complete tender documents and drawings
JUNE 2018	• Issue PIN notice on Public Contracts Scotland to enable interested parties to express interest, visit site, consider supply chains etc
JULY 2018	• Conclude outstanding agreements.
LATE 2018/ EARLY 2019	• Issue tender
EARLY 2019	• Award contract.
MARCH/APRIL 2019	• Site set-up and initial works.
APRIL/MAY 2019	• Main work to start on site.
AUGUST 2019	• Estimated completion and opening.