**DARLEY BRIDGE BUSINESS MEETING – Monday 31st July**

**Attendance: Amanda Solloway, Lincoln Smithers (DCC), Phill Massey (DCC), Richard Giles-Grant (DCC), Cllr Carmel Swan (Cba Member & Darley Cllr), Brewer Science, Loates HR, Burton’s Autos. Nichol Malia-Barlow (Darley Abbey Wines)**

Minutes:

Meeting started at 4pm

**AS** started the meeting and took introductions from those present.

**LS (DCC)** brought everyone up to date after the last meeting. Separate meeting as there may be specific business issues.

DCC have engaged a consultant who have run feasibility studies on similar bridges. They will be looking at the returned surveys, from residents and businesses, to put together a scheme that covers all eventualities, ie, pedestrian only bridge, pedestrian and emergency vehicle bridge and a full pedestrian and vehicle bridge.

They will also be looking at the engineering aspect including costs and aesthetics. This will then be put into a business case and a report put together by DCC officers to submit to the Council Cabinet in September. **LS** pointed out that DCC would not be able to afford the full amount of the bridge costs and would need to explore other funding options.

If this is passed formally by the Cabinet the next steps would be to build up a full costing exercise on all 3 options. Once this is done it would then be put to a formal public consultation.

**PM (DCC) –** Plans are on show for businesses feedback after the meeting.

All feedback from previous meetings have been issued to the consultant.

**AS** asked about timelines other than the Cabinet meeting in September. Response was that once the Cabinet had approved the report timelines can be formulated.

**Sarah (Loates HR) –** asked a question regarding the options involved of the bridges and the possibility of external funding. Also, asked whether there would be a levy placed on businesses if the mill owner was asked to part fund the bridge. Answer from **LS (DCC)** was a NO.

**CS (Cab Member)** – Business model relies on the bridge. There will be tough conversations with the businesses regards to funding.

They wouldn’t charge the residents – asked why and couldn’t answer!

Question from **AS** to **CS** about fiscal responsibility. Answer came back that if DCC charge Anthony, he will pass on the costs to the businesses.

**PB (Burtons Autos)** – Finger needs pointing at DCC as they checked the bridge 10yrs ago and absolved responsibility.

**AS** – proposal to get together with Council officers to find out the thoughts of the new administration.

**CS** -Clear that it is a shared responsibility for the funding. Key message to the owner, business owners and DCC.

Conversation took place about an unnamed philanthropist based in America. He would only contribute if others had started the funding.

**AS** – important to get a clear picture of what is required funding-wise. This would nt be clear for months, until full designs are completed.

**NM-B** – Opportunity for funding to start coming in. People already want to help via a charity or trust fund. Then the opportunity to go to Heritage and Lottery funding. They could start now without knowing the final costs, but momentum would build.

Fundraisers to be organized.

**AS** – will set up a meeting with DCC officers, Cab Member and Nichol to discuss next steps.

**SL** – would like a round table discussion with AS, Council officers, Councillors and a few businesses.

**LS** – Council has no authority to challenge the mill owner.

**CS** – summed up:

Full consultation as this is a DCC asset.

DCC are ‘into this’ for £500k at present.

Once consultation is completed, we need to get it costed as there is no detail at present.

Where does World Heritage sit with this – further questions to be asked.

Meeting concluded at 5.05pm