



To be submitted to the Council at its meeting on 24th July 2025

PORTFOLIO HOLDER - SAFER AND STRONGER COMMUNITIES

18th June 2025 at 2.00 p.m.

Present:

Councillor Shepherd (in the Chair)

Officers in attendance:

- Spencer Hunt (Assistant Director – Safer and Stronger Place)
- Stephen Jewell (Anti-Social Behaviour Co-Ordinator)
- Sophie Pickerden (Committee Support Officer)
- Gemma Broderick (Solicitor)

Also in attendance:

- Councillor Augusta (Park Ward Councillor)
- Councillor Farren (Sidney Sussex Ward Councillor)

There were no members of the press and one member of public present.

PH.SSC.1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence for this meeting.

PH.SSC.2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest received in respect of any item on the agenda for this meeting.

PH.SSC.3 PETITION – IMPROVE SAFETY AND LIGHTING AROUND FULLER STREET BRIDGE AND THE NORTH WALL IN CLEETHORPES

The Portfolio Holder received a petition from Councillor Farren and Councillor Clough containing 221 signatures asking that safety and

lighting around Fuller Street bridge and the North Wall in Cleethorpes be improved.

Councillor Farren spoke on behalf of the petitioners and explained that during the aftermath of the recent rape and sexual assault, which took place on Fuller Street Bridge, Melanie Onn's parliamentary team and Sidney Sussex Ward Councillors received varying correspondence from residents in the locality and there was a definite strength of feeling. She read a quotation from a resident taken from communications sent in after the assault:

"I live near the beautiful new Suggitt's Lane bridge in Cleethorpes. Clearly, a lot of money has been invested in this bridge, which is really well lit up; however, once you've crossed the bridge over onto the North Wall, the footpath is in complete darkness. I am sure you will be aware of the incident at the weekend where a woman was attacked. As a woman living in this area, I want to feel safe that I can use the bridge and walk along the North Wall regardless of the time of day or night. I can't understand why having spent so much money on the bridge itself, the council haven't thought to put lighting up on the other side to make the area more welcoming and safer; is there anything that can be done to rectify this?"

Councillor Farren said that the petition supported that quote and that the majority of the 221 signatures were from the DN35 postcode area, and had the petition not been focused directly upon that area around the bridge, then it could have potentially had thousands of signatures. She was worried by the argument that had been alluded to that there had not been enough crimes reported to merit the cost of improved CCTV and lighting. Councillor Farren referred to photos she had provided to the portfolio holder of Suggitt's Lane bridge and asked him to compare them to Fuller Street bridge. She said that Fuller Street bridge was in a dangerous state of repair, and it had no direct CCTV coverage, and no lighting. Councillor Farren said that CCTV was not a new issue, given that the bridge was used for crime prevention on football match days. She said that she and former Councillor Green had previously raised their concerns in September 2022, including asking a question at a meeting of Council. Councillor Farren said that they were concerned about the location of the new fixed CCTV cameras, given the lack of lighting and the use of the bridge for crime prevention.

Councillor Farren said that as Ward Councillor, she was sad that three years later, she was before the portfolio holder with the petition as she would rather not be in this position. She asked that the portfolio holder and officers think outside of their usual criteria, which it could be argued in this particular case, was not fit for purpose and was unfair and discriminatory. Councillor Farren said as a White Ribbon Council, could the portfolio holder and officers consider the following:

- 21% of crime was automatically decreased if an area was lit up. How many crimes of this nature have not been reported? How

could you get witness accounts or footage, if there was no light or cameras?

- Could we have a review of what could be seen on the bridge and surrounding area, by the CCTV near Suggitt's Lane bridge, given that this was the mitigation for refusal of a camera on the Fuller Street Bridge?
- Could the crime figures in the immediate radius be reviewed?
- Could there be a safety survey carried out on this bridge?

Councillor Farren asked that the Portfolio Holder and officers look at the matter again and consider the safety of the structure, the safety of the residents and stakeholders, and balance this with the bridge use including the use to help prevent crime on football match days, as well as serving our residents and the wider public. She asked the Portfolio Holder and officers to reflect upon whether they were acting within the Authorities remit of duty of care.

Councillor Augusta read out a statement on behalf of Councillor Clough.

Councillor Clough noted that Fuller Street bridge acted as a gateway between Fuller Street and the North Wall. She added that the police used the bridge for crowd control purposes on match days. Councillor Clough felt that the Council had a duty to make sure the bridge was safe and also had a responsibility to make sure the lighting was improved in the area. She felt that the measures were necessary as lighting acted as a form of prevention and increased visibility.

The portfolio holder accepted the petition that had been presented. He said that a number of factors needed to be looked at and he was aware that officers didn't have all of the necessary reports that had been asked for at present. The portfolio holder said that he took on board that Fuller Street bridge was used by residents and was used for crowd control purposes on match days. He said that the photos provided by the ward councillor showed that the footpath was well used. The portfolio holder said that at present he didn't have enough information and a report on the structure of the bridge was needed. He said that it was important to look at the safety aspect of people using the bridge and he needed information as to the cost of having CCTV in the area. The portfolio holder stated that he was aware of recent incidents and as the summer months approached, there would be a lot more activity in the area. He said that to get all the relevant information together would take time, but he would like another meeting to be organised after a three-month period as that would give officers time to gather reports. The portfolio holder stated that a report from the Highways Department on the current status of the bridge as well as the footpaths was needed.

Mr Hunt indicated that Fuller Street bridge did not provide the same level of CCTV coverage when compared to the newly built Suggitts Lane bridge but indicated he understood that there was some CCTV coverage that looked onto the bridge and he would clarify. Mr Hunt acknowledged that there was no lighting to the North Wall and would ascertain ownership and

requirements for lighting infrastructure in the area. Mr Hunt said that officers needed a period of time to liaise with all relevant departments and would present what had been discovered at a meeting in three months' time.

The portfolio holder said that he would also like information regarding ownership of the land and what was Crown Property. He stated that he also wanted officers to also consult with Rail Track. The portfolio holder said that his biggest concern was the structure of the bridge, and he wanted information on that presented to him in three months' time.

Ms Broderick said that in order to manage expectations, she recommended that there be a meeting scheduled in three months' time, but it might also be necessary for a further meeting, if more information was required. The portfolio holder said that he wanted any evidence before that to be brought to him and local police teams could contribute as well.

Councillor Farren stated that she would also like crime figures for that specific area to be provided as well. The portfolio holder responded that the figures might be elevated on some days due to match days, but they could be provided for specific days.

RESOLVED –

1. That the petition be received.
2. That a meeting of the Portfolio Holder for Safer and Stronger Communities be arranged for in three months' time to provide a response to the petition.

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 2.18pm.