

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Monday, 3rd March 2025

Safety fears over access to Truro bridge green transport project

A proposed cycle and pedestrian crossing in the heart of a busy Cornish industrial estate to provide access to a planned new green transport bridge is being fiercely opposed by local businesses on safety grounds.

Cornwall Council wants to put a diagonal 12 metre crossing across Newham Road on the Newham Industrial Estate in Truro to access a proposed lifting bridge between Lighterage Quay and Boscawen Park to create a walking and cycling loop around Truro Harbour.

The bridge is the flagship project of the £23.6m Town Deal plan to revitalise Truro and is expected to go before Cornwall Council planners next month.

But businesses on Newham, which is home to 180 companies employing around 1,200 people, fear the crossing could bring pedestrians and cyclists into conflict with heavy goods vehicles using the estate.

And even the Council's own [road safety audit](#) agrees, highlighting how pedestrians, especially older or disabled people "may struggle to see a vehicle approaching" because of the angle and distance of the crossing which spans a busy road junction between Newham Road and Lighterage Hill.

It adds: "their safety would then be dependent upon the approaching driver seeing and reacting to their presence. Failure to do so could result in a collision between a vehicle and vulnerable road user, most likely a pedestrian as cyclists cross more quickly."

The safety audit was drawn up by the Council's arms-length company CORMAC after Truro City Council expressed "grave concerns" about the safety of walkers and cyclists in response to Cornwall Council's original planning application for the bridge, which was subsequently postponed. Devon & Cornwall Police also expressed concerns about safety, especially after dark.

In response to the safety audit, the Council is hoping that warning signs, road markings and coloured road surfaces or textures will "reduce the risk as far as practicable". And it wants to cut back nearby vegetation to improve visibility at the junction.

These measures were presented to local businesses on Newham by Council officials at a meeting on 25th February organised by the Newham Business Improvement District (BID), whose role is to promote Newham as a business location and to support businesses on the estate.

BID Chair Leigh Ibbotson said: "The general reaction in the room was one of horror when we saw what the plans involve. The Council's own commissioned safety audit highlights the risks from effectively doubling the length of the crossing diagonally across this busy junction, and they are hoping to design themselves out of trouble through some cosmetic tweaks.

"We're not against the bridge project but we maintain that the access is ill-conceived and unsafe. We believe the only safe solution is to create a boardwalk by the river along Newham Road to maintain separation between pedestrians, cyclists and industrial traffic."

That view is shared by **Carole Theobald, Chief Executive of Newham-based sight loss charity iSightCornwall**, and Chair of Cornwall Disability Alliance representing the County's 10 leading charities for physical, sensory and neurological disabilities.

She said: "I attended the meeting with Cornwall Council and share the BID's concerns. The safety audit commissioned by the Council specifically mentions the risk of disabled or older people being on this lengthy road crossing but with their backs partially to traffic and unaware of approaching vehicles. The whole scheme needs a major rethink."

Also at the meeting was **Cameron MacQuarrie, managing director of Macsalvors crane hire**, which employs 70 people at Newham and operates more than 100 vehicles including 37 heavy duty cranes which would pass over the proposed crossing daily.

He said: "The junction is wholly unsuitable as a crossing point for pedestrians and cyclists and the plans as they stand are a recipe for disaster. You can't mitigate risks like these with some signs and a bit of paint in the middle of a busy industrial estate."

The planning application for the bridge project is expected to go before Cornwall Council planners on 7th April but also faces stiff opposition from Natural England because of its potential impact on the Malpas Estuary Site of Special Scientific Interest.

Copy ends – 3rd March, 2025

Notes to editors

Plans provided by Cornwall Council showing the location of the planned diagonal crossing at the junction of Newham Road and Lighterage Hill.



