Local children learn about bridges

Examination period over, what next?
Message from Matthew

We have now submitted our application to get this crossing built.

The final stage of this process, the Examination period, concluded in June and the panel from the Government’s Planning Inspectorate will shortly present their report to the Secretary of State for Transport. The minister will then decide if the project can go ahead, an announcement we anticipate in December.

During the Examination period, we presented our case to the panel and heard from other supporters of the project. I’m extremely proud of our team who made this happen and believe our case is robust, especially with the support of nearly everyone in the local area.

The panel also heard from parties who have concerns about the impact that the crossing will have.

Our door is, and has always been, open and we have listened to these local stakeholders and worked together to mitigate impact where possible. Whilst we may not agree with all their points of view, we have always endeavoured to have constructive conversations and build good relationships.

Our application remains true to our beliefs, that this is a project that will bring a huge range of benefits to Lowestoft and the wider region.

Although we are now waiting for the Secretary of State’s decision, our team and contractors are still hard at work on the final detailed design drawings and continuing ground investigation work, to ensure that we are ready to proceed as soon as we get the green light.

Message from Steve

Cllr Steve Gallant, Leader of East Suffolk Council said:

“This is a hugely significant project for Lowestoft and for the wider East Suffolk area and it is encouraging to see work progressing well. When complete, the benefits of the new crossing will undoubtedly attract further investment to the town, unlocking key regeneration areas and helping Lowestoft to grow.”

Councillor Matthew Hicks
Leader of Suffolk County Council

What happens next?
School visits

Over the last couple of months, Nexus Engineering have been visiting Year 5 pupils at a number of primary schools in the Lowestoft area, to teach them all about the Lake Lothing Third Crossing project.

They have been looking at why the crossing will be important to Lowestoft, what positive changes it will bring, how the bridge works and understanding some of the mechanics of it.

The children have been really engaged in the sessions, and it looks like we’ve got some future engineers in our midst! It’s exciting for this generation to be learning about the bridge at this stage of the process, as it will be an iconic landmark for many generations to come.

The teachers involved have ben really enthusiastic about the sessions:

“This was a fantastic workshop for our Year 5 cohort. They were very engaged and enjoyed the activities.”

“Interesting to hear about the growth of Lowestoft and the jobs. Good for children to hear about.”

Name that bridge!

As a project which is going to be a future landmark for Lowestoft, we thought it only fitting for the town’s children to name the bridge. All 20 primary schools in the Lowestoft area have been invited to submit suggestions with their Year 5 children.

They have been asked to think of a name which reflects the heritage, present or future of the town, reflects the local geography or makes a link to something local or references the shape of the bridge. A judging panel will choose the winning entry later this year.

Book your school visit today

If you think children at your school would enjoy one of these sessions, bookings are still being taken for the autumn term.

Contact LakeLothing3rdCrossing@suffolk.gov.uk
Supply chain event success

Over 100 attendees from local, regional and national businesses heard how they could be involved in the supply chain for the crossing.

At an event in Lowestoft in June, attendees were given an update on the progress of the crossing, details on how to register their interest to be a supplier and how they will be able to submit quotations for potential work.

Jon Barnard
Project Manager at Suffolk County Council

“I’m delighted to see so many local businesses represented. It is important to us that we give the local economy every opportunity to be involved. We will need everything from specialist mechanical and electrical equipment through to welfare services, security and accommodation.”

Pat Spillings
MD of P J Spillings Builders Ltd, Lowestoft

“For Suffolk County Council to provide the opportunity for local companies to be considered to work on this exciting project, and providing local employment, came as welcome news. Today’s event was beneficial to get an overview of the project and meet the other interested businesses.”

Your questions answered

Why does the project have a new logo?

With the project moving towards construction phase, now seemed like the appropriate time to give the Lake Lothing Third Crossing a fresh look.

The logo incorporates the iconic shape of the structure, as well as elements to recognise how it connects land, river and sea. Once the bridge has been named, this will be incorporated into the new design.

What happens now while we wait for the DCO decision?

While we await the Secretary of State’s approval of the Development Consent Order, there is still lots happening behind the scenes, with the final details of the design drawings being prepared and ground investigation works continuing.

FIND OUT MORE

Email: lakelothingle3rdcrossing@suffolk.gov.uk
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Call: 0345 606 6171 (open Mon-Fri 8.30am-5.30pm)