



TODMORDEN TOWN COUNCIL

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## Report To Development Committee

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<b>Date</b>	5 June 2024
<b>Subject</b>	Condition of Hallroyd Rd Railway Bridge

### Purpose of Report

1. To update Members on the condition of the Hallroyd Road Railway Bridge.
2. To update Members on the feasibility of TTC decorating the Hallroyd Rd Railway Bridge

### Background

3. The issue of graffiti on Hallroyd Rd railway bridge was raised by Cllr G Kent a couple of years ago. This has been reported several times to Network Rail to no avail. Towards the end of 2023, Network Rail (NR) offered to redecorate the bridge, possibly through a community effort. This offer was later retracted on the basis that no resource was available to do the work. It has been also stated that the bridge is due for an upgrade in 2028/9.
4. Members requested that an investigation be done to see if NR would allow TTC to do the work via a community group.
5. The Assitant Clerk has had a meeting with representatives of the Asset Team at NR to explore the possibility of TTC undertaking the work via a community group, possibly with children's or artists paintings/graffiti being used to cover the inside of the railway bridge.
6. In principle, providing the work to be done is agreed in advance with NR they would accept it being done by someone else. They suggested it would take at least a week to grind the surfaces of the bridge panels and to paint a primer and undercoat and up to three weeks to paint the panels.
7. The side panels of the bridge are made from metal (probably steel) and a substantial amount of preparatory work would be necessary, as would a traffic management system to guide movement on the bridge. I have approached a traffic management company for advise and they report that the road is so narrow it would require a full road closure. This would mean that drivers would not be able to access Hallroyd Rd during working hours for a period of up to 4 weeks. This would impact residents but also drivers passing through as many use this route as

a way of bypassing the Town Centre, especially when there are road works there (as at present).

8. NR pointed out that if we are considering the possibility of using children's art, children are not permitted to use metal paint. If we wished to have children's artwork this would involve an adult replicating the children's artwork on the bridge panels.
9. NR recommended adding a final coat of lacquer to the bridge panels.
10. There are 52 panels on the bridge of varying widths. In total the surface measures approximately 24m each side (48 m in total length) by approximately 1.3m. The approximate surface area to be covered is 62.4sqm. The panels are in a poor condition, uneven and covered with many years of graffiti.



## Financial

11. The initial costing is below. This includes paying a decorating firm to do the preparation work and artwork.
12. It is strongly recommended that volunteers do not do this work as paint is a chemical which requires the associated risk assessments and insurance.

	<b>Item/description</b>	<b>Cost</b>
	Traffic management (4 weeks x 9am-5pm) £17,000 incl VAT	£17,000
	Preparation work, equipment hire, materials and 2 workers (1 week)	£5,000
	Metal paint etc for decoration and 2 Workers (3 weeks)	£4,000
	(Assuming 150 litres paint and 75 litres of lacquer)	£1,000
13.	<b>Total Estimated Cost - inc VAT</b>	<b>£27,000</b>

### **Recommendation**

14. It is recommended that the Development Committee resolves to decline this proposal.

### **Reasons For Recommendation**

15. It would be unlawful expenditure for TTC to pay for this project as it does not own the asset nor is it in the process of being transferred over.

16. Cost – no funds are currently available, and it has not been budgeted for.

17. There are limited staff resources available for a project of this size at this time.

18. The disruptive impact of a 4-week road closure to residents and drivers. The possible impact of additional traffic in the Town Centre as the Stansfield Hall Rd route would be closed for 4 weeks.

19. The risk of further graffiti taking place once the work has been done.

20. The bridge is scheduled for replacement 2028/9.

### **Policy Implications:**

21. The policy that the TTC cannot fund the maintenance of an asset it does not own would be contravened if the funding takes place.

### **Details Of Consultation:**

22. Traffic Management company

### **Climate Change:**

23. The use of metal paint could be an issue.

### **Impact Equality Assessment**

24. N/A

**Further Information, Please Contact:** Susan Miles