

## Record of officer decision

<b>Decision title:</b>	<b>Response to Progressive Slope failure at C1257 Symonds Yat (West)</b>
<b>Date of decision:</b>	21 May 2018
<b>Decision maker:</b>	Head of Highways and Community Services
<b>Authority for delegated decision:</b>	Directorate scheme of delegation: Directorate: Economy, Communities and Corporate, item 77.
<b>Ward:</b>	Kerne Bridge
<b>Consultation:</b>	Cabinet Member Transportation and Regulatory Services and Ward Member Kerne Bridge.
<b>Decision made:</b>	<p>That:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1) The C1257 at Symonds Yat (West) remains open: This until such time as further failure of, or risk of failure of, the slope presents a significant risk to highway users that cannot be managed by warning signage alone; and/or further investigation works can be mobilized; or the results of those investigations confirm the need to close this section of the C1257.</b></li> <li><b>2) Signage: signage to be put in place to warn of the dangers of using the road. Signs to be developed to inform all using the highway at this location of the risk.</b></li> <li><b>3) Alternative access: Costings are to be made for the metalling of Ferrie Lane to provide a potential alternative, accepting that this is a narrow lane.</b></li> <li><b>4) Geotechnical investigations: Timescales and costings are to be made for geotechnical investigations to understand the failure mechanism and potential solutions.</b></li> <li><b>5) Site monitoring: Monitoring will continue.</b></li> <li><b>6) Briefing and Communications: Cabinet Member and Local Member to be briefed regarding the situation, communications will be issued to the parish council and those properties impacted by any closure on this road at this location.</b></li> </ol>
<b>Reasons for decision:</b>	<p>The sides of the Wye Valley that supports the C1257 (between its junction with the B4164 and Wye View Lane, south until it turns into the Byway Open to All Traffic (BOAT) WC2/3 known as Ferrie Lane) is failing progressively. This leading to damage to the highway, apparatus located within the highway and adjacent property. The cause of this failure is unknown at present.</p> <p>This single track road provides access to some 42 properties, approximately a quarter of which are holiday properties. There is alternative access via a narrow Byway Open to All Traffic (BOAT) WC2/3 Ferrie Lane.</p> <p>Ferrie lane is very narrow (c2.1m in places) and is only partially surfaced. Ferrie Lane is not in a condition that will enable its sustained usage as an alternative route. Its character (particularly in regard to the available width) means that its effectiveness as an alternative access is also constrained.</p> <p>The immediate risk presented to highway users as a result of the damage to the C1267 is being managed by temporary repair of the highway surface,</p>

	<p>warning signage and daily monitoring of the slope failure.</p> <p>The risk to highway users may increase as a consequence of further movement in the slope, this leading to further damage or failure of the highway surface and/or the collapse of adjacent property into the highway. Heavy rainfall or other changes in the circumstances at the site may lead to an escalation in the risk associated with immediate or imminent hazard presented. This requiring this road to be closed under emergency powers. At this time a closure of this route would be ineffective without the installation of physical measures to prevent its use. This is considered inappropriate as access to property is still required and unlikely to be made by the alternative route.</p> <p>The site has been the subject of inspection by the Head of Highways and Community Services, Balfour Beatty Living Places Ltd and a technical note has been prepared by WSP for Balfour Beatty Living Places on behalf of Herefordshire Council (17 May 2018).</p> <p>Having reviewed the WSP technical note (which recommends closure) in the context not only of the site of the slope failure itself, but the risk posed by the condition of alternative routes and hence the true effectiveness of any closure of the highway at this location, the sequence of work as described in the above decision is planned.</p>
<p><b>Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) A check of Vulnerable Persons data held by the council identifies two vulnerable persons living in the area that would be impacted by any closure of this road.</li> <li>2) Further movement and/or changes in prevailing conditions (i.e. weather) may escalate risk leading to the closure of this road under emergency powers.</li> <li>3) The cost of works required to facilitate any closure or further investigations and for slope stability works, as may be identified by those investigations, may require significant change to the planned programme of highway and other works to the public realm across Herefordshire. Such changes will be the subject of further decisions following said investigations.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:</b></p>	<p>The immediate closure of the C1257 at Symonds Yat (West). Given the constraints of this location, this approach is likely to be ineffective in regard to the management of the overall risk to highway users.</p> <p>Do Nothing. This will not take proper account of risk as presented to highway users.</p>
<p><b>Details of any declarations of interest made:</b></p>	<p>None</p>

Signed: Head of Highways & Community Services

Date: 21 May 2018