**Bridge Replacement – Mill Street, Wem**

 **Frequently Asked Questions**

1. **Why do you need to replace the bridge?**

In December this year, we will be replacing the rail bridge on Mill Street, which carries the railway between Shrewsbury and Crewe. The bridge has come to the end of its life so replacing it now will ensure we can continue to run a safe and efficient railway and ensure reliable journeys for rail passengers and road users for many more years to come.

1. **Will there be a road closure in place during the work?**

For the safety of staff and road users, we will need to temporarily close the road underneath the bridge while we work on it. The road will be temporarily closed from Saturday 4 to Wednesday 29 December. Working with Shropshire Council, a fully signposted diversionary route will be in place along the B5063/Shawbury Road, A49 and B5065/Soulton Road.

During the core work (from 11pm on Friday 24 December to 4am on Wednesday 29 December), in addition to the road closure underneath the bridge on Mill Street, there will be a single lane closure and traffic lights in place at the roundabout between the B4576 and the B5063 as well as a full road closure of the roundabout for 15 minutes on Sunday 26 December, whilst we lift the new bridge into place.

1. **Where will the site compound be located?**

We will be setting up a site compound from mid-November in the field alongside the railway behind Grange Park Hawk Plant Limited. We will need to cut back vegetation along the railway embankment between the field and the bridge to enable our staff and machinery to access the bridge safely and easily.

1. **What are the dates and times of work?**

Some of the work will be carried out during daytime hours but a large part of this project will be carried out on weekends and during the night time when trains aren’t running.

The core work will be carried out from 11pm on Friday 24 December to 4am on Wednesday 29 December when our staff will be working 24 hours a day, as no trains will be running.

Follow up work will take place until mid-January 2022.

1. **Will I still be able to walk under the bridge when work is taking place on the bridge?**

We want to maintain access for pedestrians as much as possible when we’re not working on the bridge. However, there will be occasions when it won’t be safe to allow pedestrians to pass underneath.

From 11pm on Friday 24 December until 4am on Wednesday 29 December, for safety reasons, we will not be able to maintain access for pedestrians.

1. **Will residents living near the bridge be affected?**

Due to the proximity of the bridge to neighbouring houses, there will be a level of disruption as the machinery we are using will create noise and dust. We will use a range of measures to try and minimise noise and dust as much as possible as well

as position lighting and generators away from homes and use shielding and acoustic barriers where possible.

We appreciate that there is never an ideal time to carry out work of this nature but we hope that by doing it in the winter months, residents will be able to keep windows closed as much as possible.

We would like to thank you in advance for your patience while we carry out this essential work.

1. **Will trains be affected?**

There will be a rail replacement bus service in operation between Shrewsbury and Crewe on Monday 27 and 28 December. Please visit [www.nationalrail.co.uk](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk) or [www.tfw.wales](http://www.tfw.wales) for more information.

1. **How do I contact Network Rail?**

If you have any questions or concerns about the work taking place, please call our 24-hour National Helpline on: 03457 11 41 41 or visit [www.networkrail.co.uk/contactus](http://www.networkrail.co.uk/contactus).