

3 April 2009

## Bridge to get royal seal of approval

HRH The Duke of Gloucester is to open a new railway bridge on the border between Harrow and Ealing, which will speed up traffic and remove a bottleneck on one of the area's busiest roads.

The Duke will unveil a commemorative plaque at the improved Petts Hill Bridge in Northolt on 21 April 2009.

Residents can already see the wider bridge that replaced its 100-year-old predecessor over the Christmas break.

The 60-hour construction of the new, 270 tonne steel bridge was captured on time-lapse video, finishing just an hour before the first train crossed the bridge.

A towering crane helped construct the bridge's 13 different sections, which were delivered to the site from South Wales, using 15 lorries.

Mayor of Harrow, Councillor John Nickolay, said:

"This will be a worthy occasion for all, especially for the residents behind the Danemead Grove and Petts Hill Residents' Association, most recently led by late chairperson Linda Kouparis – who strove to ensure the project would benefit generations to come. It's also an honour to have a man of the Duke's stature, who is a fellow of the Institution of Structural Engineers, open the bridge. It's one of Harrow's most important projects, as it will ease congestion, increase pedestrian and cyclist safety, and improve journeys for tall vehicles crossing underneath the bridge."

Mayor of Ealing, Councillor Ian Green, said:

"We really must thank residents for being so patient while the first part of this crucial work was carried out. However, I'm sure any temporary difficulties will certainly prove worth it in the long-term. When this project is complete, we will have unclogged a vital artery in the local transport network for the good of pedestrians, cyclists and drivers. Buses and trains will also benefit, meaning more efficient public transport links."

The ceremony marks the second visit by the Duke, who visited the Harrow Civic Centre in June 2005 to unveil a new war memorial, during the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary for the end of World War Two.

Other royal appearances include Countess of Wessex Sophie Rhys-Jones' opening of the Earth Project Centre in May 2007, and Her Majesty The Queen's visit in April 2004 for the Borough's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

Harrow Council and its partner EnterpriseMouchel are set to begin further highway improvement works in April which will include creating a short section of bus lane; widening the carriageway to two lanes in each direction; improving pedestrian crossing facilities and cycle tracks; and enhancing links to Northolt Park Station.

The multi-million pound scheme is a collaborative effort between Harrow Council and Ealing Council and their partners Transport for London, Network Rail, EnterpriseMouchel and Birse Rail.

For more information on the scheme, call 020 8424 1483 or visit [www.pettshill.co.uk](http://www.pettshill.co.uk)



The new bridge as it stands today.



The Duke of Gloucester.

### Notes to editors

The Petts Hill Bridge and Highway Improvement scheme involves:

- Replacing the 100-year-old railway bridge.
- Adding an extra traffic lane in each direction.
- Adding bus priority at the junction.
- Improving access to Northolt Park Station by widening the footway, installing cycle paths and providing better lighting.
- Widening the footways in both directions to make it safer for pedestrians to walk under the bridge.
- Creating cycle tracks on both sides of the road under the bridge to join up existing cycle lanes.
- Upgrading the signal junction at A312 (Northolt Road) and A4090 (Alexandra Avenue) to provide crossing facilities.
- Improving the appearance of the area by planting new trees.
- The multi-million pound project is backed by various funding, including £1.3 million from Network Rail and £4.1 million from TfL.