

For Your Information

Following my visit on 22/01/2020 to examine the footbridge bridge over The Ravine, linking North Parade to Belle Vue Park Lowestoft, I can confirm the observations noted by Mr Jonathan Lewis a structures inspector, in his email to Stuart Heald of Suffolk Highways on 15/01/2020.

My ability to undertake a close inspection to the underside of the bridge was unavailable so a visual inspection from The Ravine footpath below and upon the footbridge itself was the only method of observation.

The Jubilee Bridge (constructed in 1887 to commemorate Queen Victoria's Jubilee) I believe is a footbridge that is categorised as a Grade 2 Listed Building. Constructed of steel with a concrete deck, the single-span flat-deck footbridge supported on 2 elliptical arches with tracery spandrels and steel lattice bolted balustrade and timber handrails. The span springs from brick revetments.

Observations: ;

There are indeed cracks approximately 4mm wide and several meters long to the upper surface of the concrete deck visible where the outer face of the concrete deck extends/projects approximately 200mm beyond the balustrading. As pointed out in previous emails there is grass and moss growing in the cracks.....further examination would be advised to confirm if any corrosion is occurring to possible steel reinforcement within the concrete deck (assuming it has some) and concrete patch repairs undertaken....if left, further cracking is likely and concrete may spall off the structure to the ground/road/footpath below.

Surface corrosion is visible to the base of the balustrading in several locations where it meets the concrete deck, this has occurred where protective paint has deteriorated.... this guarding still appears robust and able to support normal expected loads, but obviously will continue to corrode unless protected further from the elements.

Steel cross bracing to the underside of the deck adjacent to the brick revetments were corroding and/ or missing.....this should be reinstated as per the original construction.

Conclusion: Though I'm not an expert in any way with regards bridge construction, the basic fundamentals of all structures is that if they are not periodically maintained then environmental effects will eventually cause degradation to them up to a point where they become unsafe. In this instance I believe that the structure can currently function as intended, but further exploration, maintenance /repairs should be undertaken in order to prevent further deterioration, particularly with regards to the deteriorating concrete deck. As the bridge is still able to maintain normal loadings placed upon it without being dangerous, Building Control are currently unable to categorise the footbridge as a Dangerous Structure under Section 77 and 78 of the Building Act 1984 at this time.

Regards

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