



Department  
for Transport

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Dear *John,*

Thank you for your letter of 11 August to the former Secretary of State, which was received at the Department on 17 October, about Junction 5 M2/A249 highway improvements in Kent. I am replying as the Minister responsible for this issue.

National Highways (NH) inform me that Stockbury Parish Council raised the proposal for a new road bridge over the A249. This would connect Church Hill on the western side of the A249 and South Green Lane on the eastern side of the A249 and was raised during the public inquiry. Kent County Council (KCC) made a bid to the Major Road Network fund following this request but the Department decided not to pursue the scheme further following Transport for the Southeast recommending that the bid should not be progressed.

NH say the most practical solution would be the construction of a new non-motorist bridge at Church Hill, providing a crossing over the A249. This would provide a safe route for pedestrians. NH continue to liaise with Stockbury Parish Council regarding this option and recently provided an update at its monthly meeting on Wednesday 12 October. NH are planning further communications including placing an article in the local newspaper to further gauge the level of demand for a new non-motorised bridge. They will continue to work closely with Stockbury Parish Council as its plans develop and keep them updated every step of the way. Due to the main purpose of the bridge being to connect Stockbury, unless there is clear support for the demand from Stockbury residents, it will not be able to progress.

An opportunity has also been identified to contribute to the design, development and funding for improvements to existing public rights of way (PROWs) in the vicinity of the M2 junction 5 scheme, please see the attached map.