

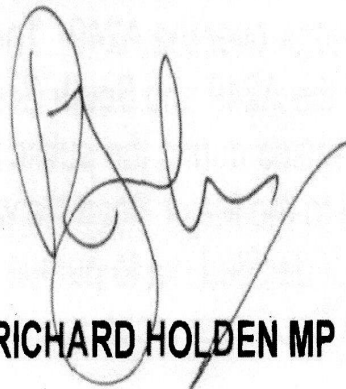
This proposal, including the construction of a new footbridge, would provide a missing link to the local PROW network, in addition to delivering an important strategic connection to Stockbury and surrounding areas. National Highways continues to discuss the plans with Stockbury Parish Council and other key stakeholders as they progress and are in the process of reviewing the feasibility report.

Meetings have been held with the bus operator, Arriva, regarding the bus stops situated on the A249 and they advised the bus stops had been decommissioned on safety grounds prior to the scheme commencing. Members of the Project Team have held subsequent meetings with Kent County Council and Arriva to look at bus routes in the area on completion of the scheme, these discussions are currently ongoing.

There are also ongoing discussions between National Highways M2 J5 project team, Kent County Council and Arriva bus company around what the permanent bus routes around the junction will be post scheme completion. However, National Highways' M2 J5 project team is not part of the Bus Improvement Scheme that is running in Kent.

I hope you find this information helpful in addressing your concerns.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard Holden', written over a faint circular stamp or watermark.

RICHARD HOLDEN MP

MINISTER FOR ROADS AND LOCAL TRANSPORT