

Bridge is not strong enough

ALVINGHAM bridge over the Louth Canal is not strong enough to take the weight of modern traffic, Lincolnshire County Council's Capital Monitoring Sub Committee has been informed.

The committee recently agreed to replace the old bridge, whose strength is inadequate and whose parapets fail to comply with current standards.

County Highways intend to replace the bridge with a precast concrete beam deck with piled foundations and would provide for two lane traffic and footways with parapets complying with current standards.

To safeguard the present bridge a temporary weight restriction of three tonnes is presently in force but this would not be a permanent solution, officers at Lincoln feel, as this would be 'unacceptable' due to the low limit and minimum 5km diversionary route. Strengthening options are not considered viable either.

The cost of replacing the bridge is expected to be in the region of £100,000 to £200,000.



Open at last, the long awaited bridge at the Mill House in Alvingham.

A bridge at last

At long last, Alvingham has a new bridge over the River Lud.

Just who was responsible for building the bridge, which gives access to two churches, the Mill House and a farmyard, has long been a bone of contention.

For months and months, it seemed there was a stalemate, nobody wanted the responsibility of building a new bridge.

Mr Phil Davies of the Mill House went to great pains to prove who owned the bridge and was responsible for its upkeep.

After much research, Mr Davies unearthed documents dating back to 1277. And in the end the County Council had their hand forced, largely thanks to Mr Davies's detective work.

Problems worsened when Mr Davies and farmer Mr Roy Graves, re-constructed the dangerous bridge for their own use.

Both were adamant, they had gone to the trouble and expense of building the bridge, and didn't feel they wanted to be responsible for any injuries incurred by casual users.

It meant a long and often muddy walk to church. And it was because of this, the village felt so strongly about the matter.

However the County Council have at long last completed work on a fine new bridge, in keeping with the surroundings.