

SATIN Case Study - Dorrator 'Steel Truss' Bridge

Organisation Name

Falkirk Council Development Services,
Central Scotland Green Network Trust (CSGNT)
and the Communities Along the Carron Association
(CATCA)

Infrastructure Location

Dorrator, River Carron, Falkirk

Date of Completion

30-Sep-2014



Falkirk Council
Development Services

Context

The project involved the replacement of a 100 year old Harper "swing bridge", which had unfortunately come to the end of its natural life and also was not Equality Act compliant so required to be either substantially upgraded or replaced.





Falkirk Council's Engineering Designed Team considered and costed both and the only viable option was to replace the existing bridge with a new bespoke example.





Technical Aspects

The original Dorrator Bridge was a single span suspension (cable stay) footbridge build by Harper Bridges from Aberdeen and opened in 1893.



The new replacement bridge is a single span "steel truss" structure with Equality Act compliant ramped access at either end.



Outcomes

The completion of the replacement bridge and associated path works enabled the opening up of a 10km (c.6mile) circular route along the River Carron as part of the partnership project with the Communities Along the Carron Association (CATCA).

The official opening and celebration of the new bridge took place on Saturday 16th May 2015 with members of the community, partners and funders attending - click on this link "[Dorrator - connecting communities](#)" to read the press release.

Financing

Funding for the project (bridge and path works) amounted to £580,000 and came from Sustrans Community Links, Falkirk Council and Falkirk Environment Trust (landfill tax).

Evaluation

The project since its completion has been a huge success with the level of use of the new bridge and path over the old structures up an incredible 700%. The replacement has clearly been worthy of the expenditure given the new level of use but also has opened up a whole new path network to a much wider range of users.

Key Learning Points

Whilst from the outset it was hoped to retain the existing "swing bridge" structure it unfortunately became clear from an early stage that the engineering requirements to bring the bridge "up to date" would have been extremely difficult and somewhat costly to deliver.

However, as part of the project, one of the old bridges piers has been retained on site and in working with the Communities Along the Carron Association (CATCA) a memorial to the old bridge is being established on the site to remind people of the existence of and function which the old bridge served for well over 100 years.

This project is one of a number of outdoor access projects, which have been delivered throughout the Falkirk Council area over the last 15 years and yet another example of what can be achieved by working in partnership with others.

Contact Details

Angus Duncan
Falkirk Council
Abbotsford House
Davids Load
Falkirk
FK2 7YZ
01324 504928
angus.duncan@falkirk.gov.uk