



**James Cartlidge MP**  
**Member of Parliament for South Suffolk**

Cllr Cunningham - Cabinet Member for Highways  
Essex County Council  
County Hall  
Market Road  
Chelmsford  
CM1 1QH

Cc Cllr James Finch

18<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Dear Cllr Cunningham,

**RE: BOXTED BRIDGE CLOSURE**

I am writing to you regarding the ongoing closure of Boxted Bridge.

I note that the bridge located on the Suffolk/Essex border - over the River Stour - has been closed for in excess of 12 months, and that you will ultimately be the decision-maker determining if this bridge is to be refurbished or replaced. As I am sure that you will appreciate, the ongoing closure is cause for concern for road users in South Suffolk – with pedestrians and cyclists also being denied access, as well as leisure users of the river below being inconvenienced.

Having visited the site myself over the summer and upon meeting with several concerned constituents, it is clear that the preferred option is to repair the bridge so that the historic aspects of its 120-year-old architecture are preserved. I understand that it is causing great anxiety to local residents at the prospect of the bridge being replaced with a much larger structure – which may encourage large HGVs to use the narrow lanes surrounding the area, potentially posing a risk to road users.

As such, I would be grateful for an update on Essex County Councils plans for the Boxted Bridge so that I can keep my constituents informed.

Thank you, and I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

**James Cartlidge MP**  
Member of Parliament for South Suffolk