



**CLIFTON
SUSPENSION
BRIDGE & MUSEUM**

Public consultation: Proposed changes to the vehicle toll

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Bridge Master



Welcome

Meeting Overview

- **Introductions**
- **Format of the meeting**
- **Q&A**

***Please note this meeting is being recorded**

Toll Consultation

- **Introduction and background**
- **The Proposals**
- **Next Steps**
- **Q&A**



Introduction

Background

- Grade I Listed Historic Structure
- Opened 1864 – over 161 years old and has always been a toll bridge
- Sits over a major road, river and railway line and path and SSSI
- Key part of Bristol infrastructure network
- Carries up to 3 million vehicles per year
- Has a weight limit of 4 Tonnes



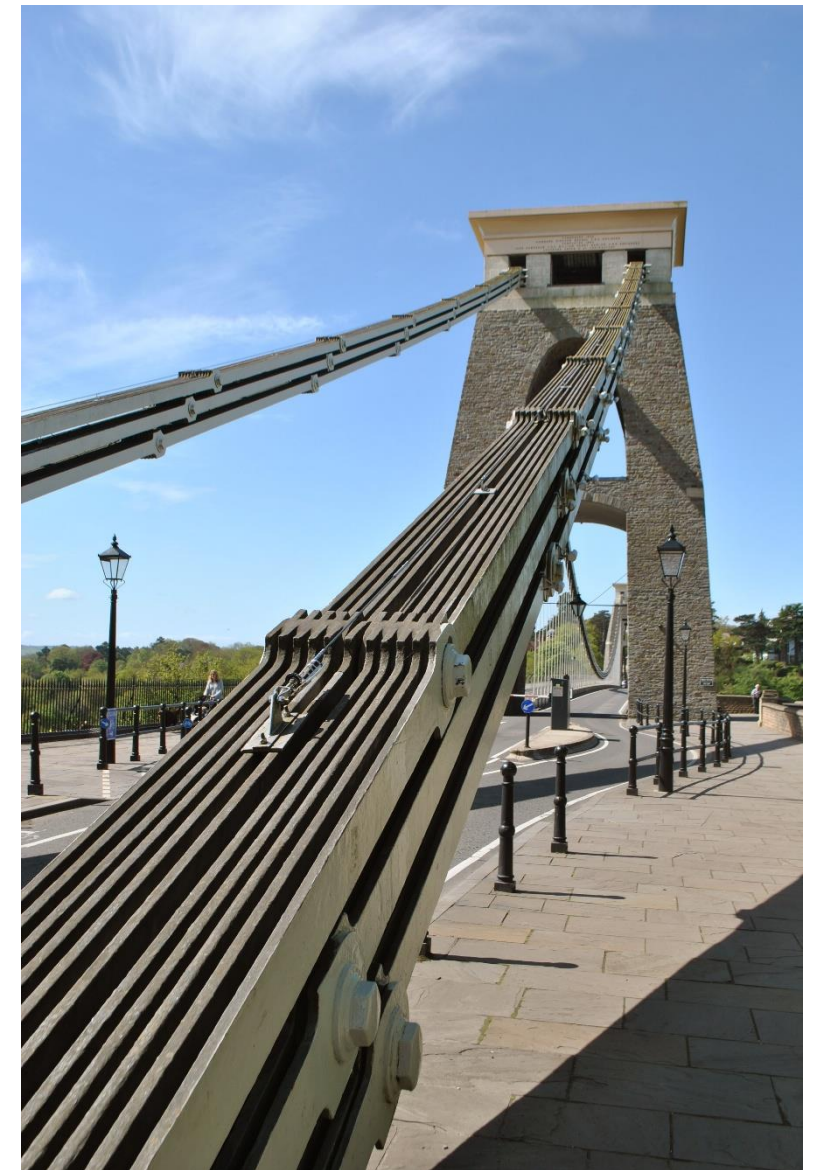
The Trust

- Clifton Suspension Bridge has been looked after by the Trust since 1954.
- It receives no funding from local or central government and does not receive any grants to maintain the bridge.
- The Trust is a not-for-profit charity and its Trustees are volunteers and receive no income or salaries.
- The Trust was formed under the 1952 Act – its key responsibility is to maintain the bridge in perpetuity.
- Income from the Tolls and income from the investments are the sole means of doing this.



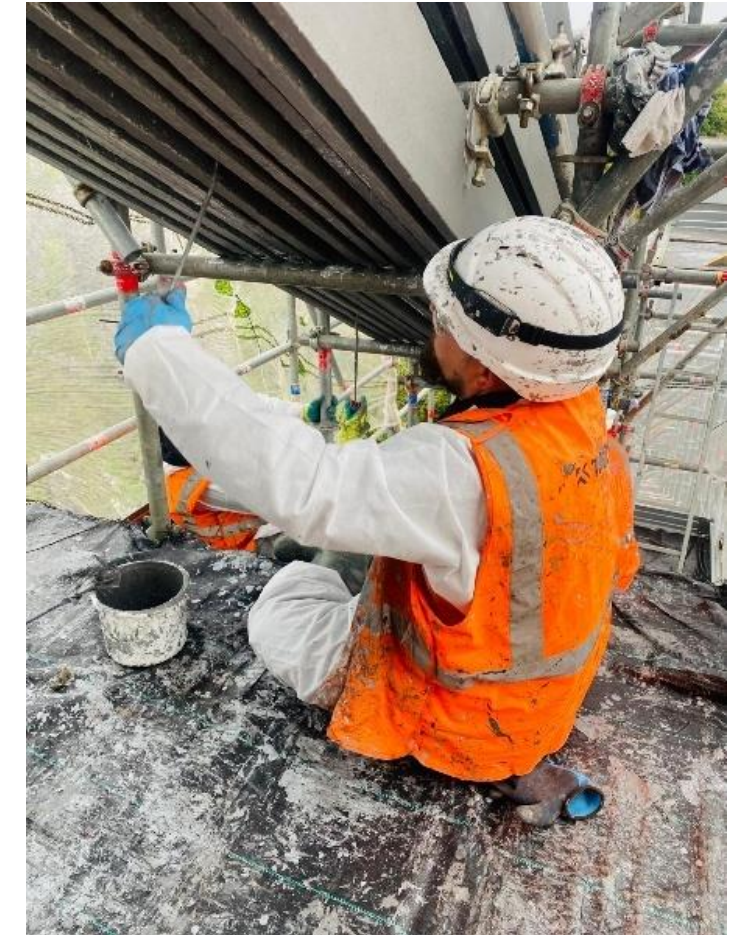
Where does the Toll income go?

- Maintenance / Inspections / Major Projects on the bridge
- Salaries for our Operational Staff, Bridge Attendants and Bridge Master.
- Insurance – a very specific asset to insure
- Toll income invested to grow the pot for maintenance
- The Museum and its staff are not covered by the Toll Income – their costs are covered by tours, school visits and donations. It is self financing and receives grants on occasion for educational purposes.



Maintenance

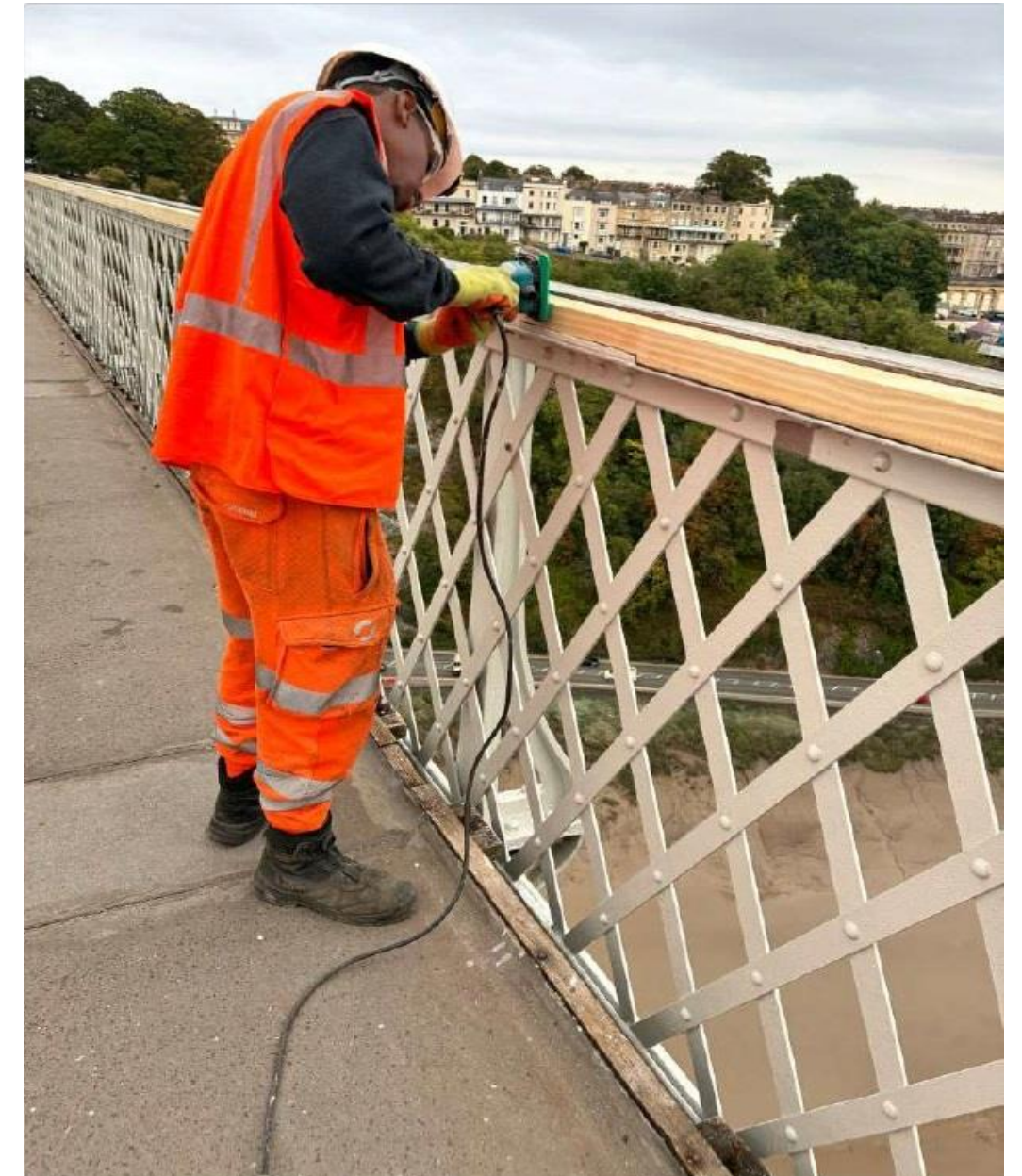
- Regular inspections (3-yearly cycle)
- Regular monitoring (CCTV/weigh beams/movement sensors and their maintenance)
- Maintenance projects – toll barriers upgrade, upgrade of equipment such as CCTV cameras, weigh beams
- Major improvement projects – tower repointing, painting of various parts of the bridge – under the deck and the girders alongside the road, toll houses and the current major refurbishment project to name but a few!
- Environmental, Health and Safety, Public interface and traffic considerations
- Engagement with key stakeholders for permissions



The Challenge

- The toll was last increased over ten years ago, in 2014, and since then there have been:
 - increases in inflation,
 - Increases in the cost of maintenance and materials (paint),
 - updates to health and safety requirements,
 - wage increases,
 - climate changes,
 - increase in weight of traffic.

This means the Trust needs to increase the toll in order to continue to maintain and protect the bridge for future generations.





The Proposals

Overview

We are consulting the public on:

- increasing the toll charge for vehicles crossing the Bridge from £1 to £1.50 per crossing, and
- for the cost of the toll in future to rise annually in line with inflation.

There are no plans to charge cyclists and pedestrians to use the Bridge.

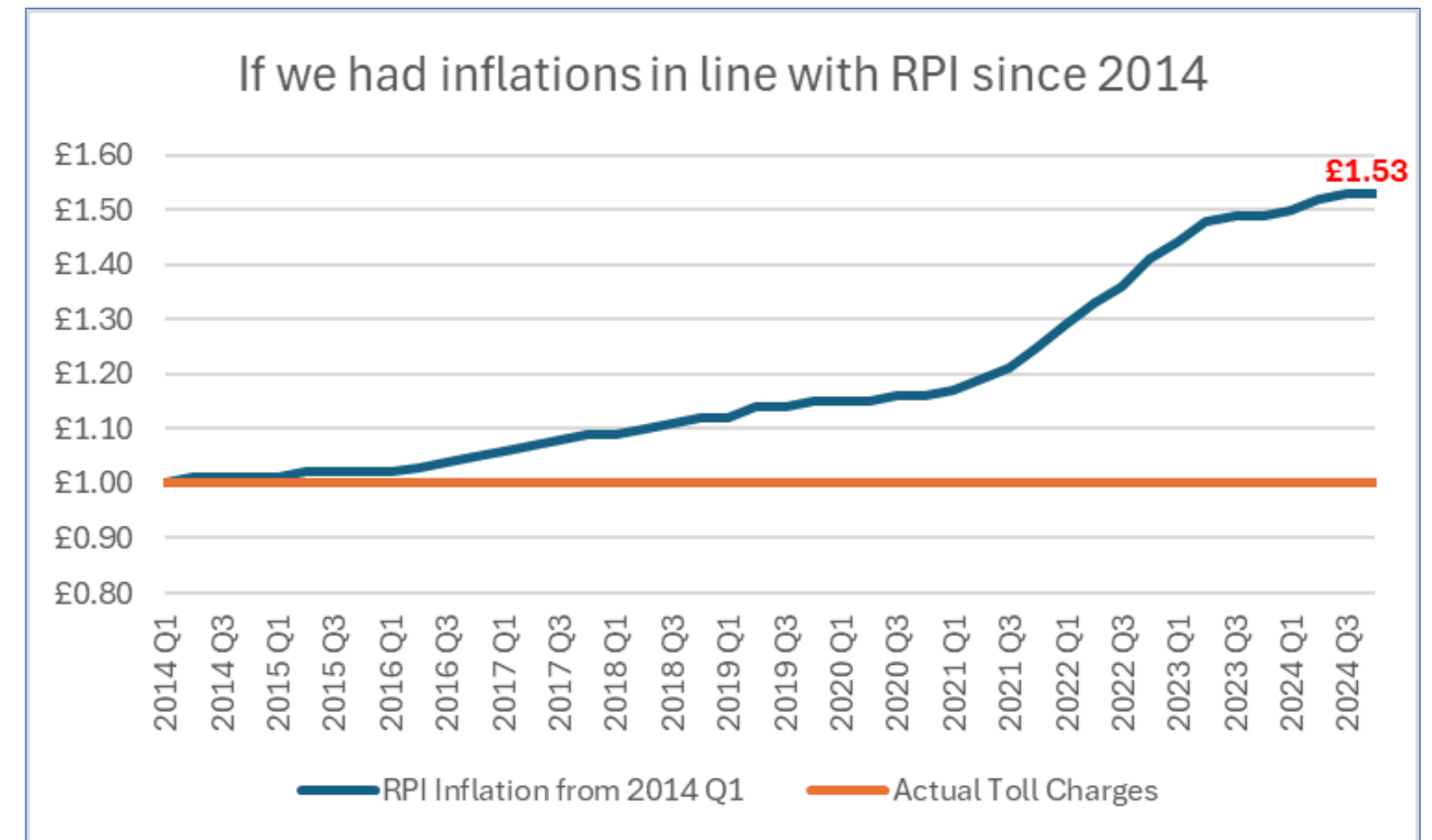
The last toll increase was from 50p to £1 in April 2014.



Proposed toll increase

The proposed increase in the toll from £1 to £1.50 from January 2027 would allow us to:

- increase the current toll to take account of inflation since 2014
- cover routine day-to-day running and maintenance costs
- begin to plan for the costs of the next major refurbishment project in 2049/50 and other special projects, and to build up and maintain an adequate emergency reserve fund



Small annual increase

Going forward, the proposed approach is for the toll to increase annually in line with inflation.

This would mean that:

- the Trust does not have to continually re-apply for new fixed toll levels, avoiding the significant costs and time which could be better spent directly on the Trust's core operations
- increases in the toll are linked to the increases in construction costs, ensuring that costs and revenues remain broadly in line with each other



Bridge Cards

- The Bridge Cards are not connected to the toll increase and are decided by the trustees of the bridge.
- The current range of discounts are:

100 crossings for £85

500 crossings for £350

Also, a 50 crossings convenience card - no discount.

A 1000 crossing card used to be available but is not part of the current range.



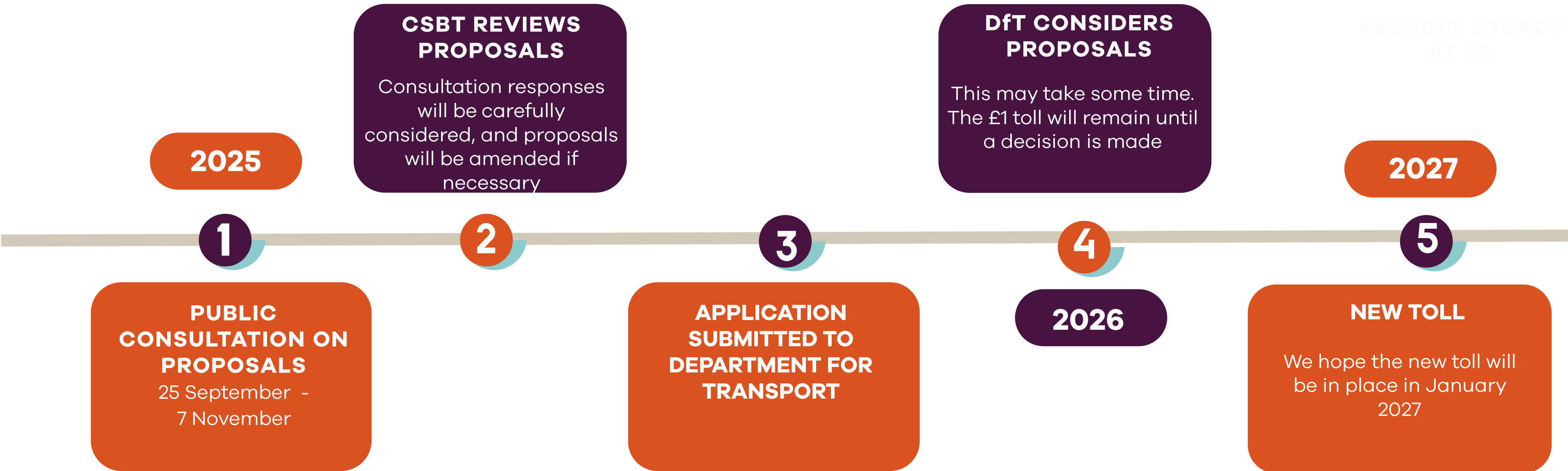


Next steps

Have your say

- Complete a feedback survey online by Friday 7th November on the website at <https://cliftonbridge.org.uk/crossing-the-bridge>
- View the information at the Clifton Suspension Bridge Museum (open daily 10am- 5pm) and complete a paper feedback form
- View the information at Pill, Clifton and Bristol Central Libraries and complete a paper feedback form
- Request a **paper copy** of the information from Avril Baker Consultancy on info@abc-pr.co.uk or call 0117 977 2002.

What happens next?





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Q&A

cliftonbridge.org.uk