

**For Immediate Release**

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## **BEXLEY VILLAGE BRIDGE REOPENS EARLY**

The new bridge in Bexley Village will reopen to all traffic tomorrow morning (24 May), two months ahead of schedule.

Northbound traffic will no longer be diverted via the A2. The bridge had already reopened to southbound traffic on 10 May. The new bridge is stronger and slightly wider than the old one.

The construction of the new bridge, funded by Transport for London, was a significant project. It was complicated by difficult ground conditions when constructing the bridge foundations and the discovery of a rusted Thames Water main which, if left unrepaired, could potentially have flooded the village. Careful planning and the longer full road closure that was needed have made it possible to complete the whole project more quickly.

Throughout the bridge closure the Council maintained close contact with businesses and the village remained open as usual.

Cllr Alex Sawyer, Cabinet Member for Traffic and Transport, said: "I would like to thank residents & businesses who have been very understanding during the works. This is good news for all. I am delighted we are able to open the new bridge two months ahead of schedule despite the complexity of the construction programme.

I am confident that this major investment in the Village infrastructure will ensure that the local community continues to thrive".

Given the conservation status of Bexley Village and the effectiveness of the current 7.5 tonne weight restriction, this restriction will continue once the new bridge is in operation. The diversion for large vehicles to avoid the bridge will also continue. Buses and coaches will remain exempt from this weight restriction.

For more information on the bridge works visit [www.bexley.gov.uk/bexleyhighstreetbridge](http://www.bexley.gov.uk/bexleyhighstreetbridge)

Ends

