

Crab and Winkle cycle way and foot path given green light for bridges

[< Previous](#) 1 2 3 [Next >](#)



Bridge to the future: The site of one of the gaps, where a new bridge is to be built

By nerissa blower

THE Crab and Winkle footpath and cycle way is to get its multimillion-pound "missing link."

Planners agreed on Tuesday to allow cycle charity Sustrans and the Crab and [Winkle Line Trust](#) to build two bridges over the main [London](#) to [Ramsgate](#) railway and across Old Bridge Road and Teynham Road.

These will mean that for the first time since the 1960s walkers will be able to use the link all the way from Canterbury to [Whitstable](#) Harbour without having to leave the path and cross busy roads.

But the decision was touch and go when members of the city council's planning committee saw designs for the new bridges.

Five objected: Councillors Julia Seath, [Jenny Samper](#), [Ian Thomas](#), Evelyn Bisset and [Ida Linfield](#).

[Liberal Democrat](#) Ms Linfield, who normally supports the Crab and Winkle Line, said: "I went to the meeting thinking I was going to vote for it but actually the bridges are huge.

"When I saw the first plans in 2008 they showed modern lightweight bridges but the updates show the bridge as solid and overbearing in nature.

"The bridges are too big, overbearing and will be a hotspot for graffiti. They will be very detrimental to the life of residents. The people living in bungalows will have a whopping great bridge next to them."

But councillors were split and 10 eventually pushed the controversial plans through.

[Lib Dem](#) councillor [Nick Eden-Green](#) said: "There will be some overlooking of the immediate housing but you have to balance out the overall benefit to the community.

"The advantage is that it will promote alternative transport and it will open up a route for locals and cyclists.

"We want to encourage tourism in the district. There are a lot of cycle tourists in east Kent. They book expensive hotels so this is a good way to get people to spend more money in the area."

Planning officer Nicola Hughes said: "The need for safety clearance across roads and railway would result in the bridges being quite prominent, higher than the existing ground levels of the former embankments."

Marcial Boo, chairman of the Trust, said: "This has been a long time coming but it is a great step forward. The Crab and Winkle Way is a piece of Whitstable's history. This will not only help us celebrate our past but will benefit current and future residents."

The 12-mile Canterbury and Whitstable railway line – later dubbed the Crab and Winkle line because of its initials – was opened in May 1830 to link Canterbury with [Whitstable Harbour](#).

Sustrans is part-funding the Whitstable scheme with £500,000 from the [Big Lottery Fund](#).