

Rip off, council can't even maintain the blocked road side drains that are completely blocked and send a road sweeper round close to portswood primary school. Haven't seen a road sweeper round here for atleast 5 months!

the bridge tolls were originally in place until the bridge was paid for.. Now it seems it will increase year on year

I use the Itchen Bridge twice a day and avoid peak times so the increase in price would cost me a LOT

As a keyworker living in Netley Abbey this further rise will have a serious impact on my finances... I use the bridge 5-7 days a week to get into the city for my shifts...Please lower it!

The cost of living is horrendous right now and with parking going up for us from £2 to £2.60 for just 2 hours parking it is a big hike. This bridge must have paid for itself by now as it has been there all my life and I am 51.

Have the council paid off the loan on the bridge. The bridge is a cash cow for the council, how often do we see work taking place, not often. I think a lot of people will go via Northam. Personally I get 30p going to 40p, so every 4th journey I will go via Northam just to keep the payments as is now.

Because there is no need to charge people for using the bridge so much outside of peak hours. This bridge was supposed to be free once the costs were covered and that was years ago - this council are milking this cash cow for all it's worth!!

By increasing the costs at off peak times you are not supporting people in this cost of living crisis.

I agree with the argument that all crossing impact the wear and tear of the bridge. However,I disagree with your proposal.

I think if there is any increase it should be to peak travel.

Peak time travel results in queuing and congestion which is more polluting. A larger variation between off peak and peak charges could result in some travellers commuting by public transport or at different times which spreads out demand and reduced congestion.

Do not penalise the off peak travellers!

If you want to increase revenues, get a speed camera on the bridge! It's a safety nightmare as people use it as a race track out the city.

Hgv and similar should be discouraged from this route. Residential area on woolston side cannot cope with large numbers of these vehicles.

Proposal does not affect residents personal vehicles which is good.

The council already make a ridiculous amount of money from the toll. Increasing the levy for HGVs will cause these vehicles to use the smaller roads, adding to congestion and destroying the road surfaces across the communities. These roads are already past breaking point and in desperate need of repair

You have enough money out of us using this road , when you built this bridge you said that the toll would only last so long and yet you continue to charge and considering mainly cars use the bridge you are using it as a exercise to get more money out of the people that use it most, which you won't use the money well and continue to cause traffic to divert on other busy routes , we are in a cost of living crisis !

The cost of the bridge has gone up dramatically since I've lived in Southampton (2019). It would be good to deter people from using the bridge but then the traffic going over other bridges and the extra pollution involved by getting to the other bridges, it would counteract the 'good' done. £1 is a totally unreasonable amount to expect people to pay to cross the bridge!

We are in a cost of living crisis and increasing these costs in unjustifiable.

Because it's just another lame excuse for the overpaid pen pushers at the top that wants to stop private vehicles going into the city centre. Public transport has never been reliable enough and as for the hire scooters/bikes around the city, they're just overpriced and would cost me more hiring these per week as opposed to taking my car to work. Shoppers will eventually go elsewhere like Whitely and Gunwharf which would make Southampton a boring city which will have no appeal to tourists, students or even the residents. Well done SCC for your plans to ruin the city.

The bridge is already a heavy expense and it causes a back up of traffic in woolston and makes people's journeys home take longer. The cost of living is already too high and this is nothing more than greed.

The proposed changes seem fair and reasonable.

Some detailed comments that I hope are helpful:

Schedule 2 table: Apostrophe missing and "Resident"/"Residents" not used consistently.

Schedule 3 map: It is not explicitly clear that this is the map defining the boundary for the Local Resident Concession. This map is almost illegible in the Draft Order document.

Is a second map needed to show the area covered by the Residents' Concession?

The second page of your form requires the email address to be a number and it is impossible to enter a valid email address there.

Getting in and out of Southampton is increasingly difficult. Planned permanent road closure will exacerbate this. Free of tolls this bridge will release pressure elsewhere

For a council that is really pushing the "go green" mantra, the removal of the off-peak concession for class 2 vehicles is yet another cost increase in disguise for motorists which, in many cases, will force many of us to drive longer distances in order to avoid Itchen Bridge (i.e., driving through Bitterne instead), with the consequential impact on local air pollution. However, SCC never seems to listen to local residents and it is clear that your public consultations are merely a paper-ticking formality you must undertake even though the decision has already been made at your end, regardless of the local opinion.

Will cause extreme traffic at the Northam Bridge.

Like all other roads and bridges maintenance of structures is already paid for by our taxes. The costs of living has increased, the council instead of helping families is considering of these changes which is not helpful at all! As a local resident I constantly use the bridge so I am certainly not in favour of these changes.

- 1.- We don't use vehicles for fun, we use them for work.
- 2.- the bus service at the moment it is heavily unreliable since there is only one company operating.
- 3.- councils are supposed to help with the increase in the cost of living, this is just the opposite.
- 4.- this is only a money making measure. If needed for environmental reasons or to protect the bridge, the council could just ban lorries or heavy vehicles from using it. No need to increase prices.

You money grabbing bastards. Should be making cheaper for people to use the bridge given the cost of living crisis. Also making it more expensive will force people to avoid the bridge making journeys longer, traffic in the rest of the city worse. All of these factors leading to increased pollution. This also being said are you even managing the bridge at the moment or have you sold it off to another council to manage.

Scum!

Again like the evening parking charges you are hammering the motorist for your incompetence. Do you not realise that there is a cost of living crisis and you Southampton city council are not helping the residents at all

Fare increases, on top of the current car park increases just mean even poorer residents of Southampton. I'm happy to change this if we also get a council tax reduction too to compensate for all these increases?

Sds

Penalising those who live in on that side of the bridge - this is an area of the city that has pockets of poverty/low income and to remove the off peak charge will be to the detriment of those who are already struggling

When the bridge was originally built it was advised that it would become free once it paid for itself. This was when my mum was little, she is now 61, the bridge has probably paid for itself and all the maintenance over the years tenfold. This new proposed anytime same fee is a way of bringing in extra money and putting more pressure on those that live the other side of the bridge but work in the town centre. I'm all for charging those that don't live in a Southampton postcode to cross, but it should be free for Southampton residents who present a toll bridge card.

Raising the cost will have a major impact to me and mainly working class people who use this bridge to travel into the city daily. I use the bridge to travel into work most days and it will cost hundreds of pounds extra to be able to do this a year. Which negatively impacts my family's finances putting us into further financial hardship. It will also further cause pollution as more and more people will be using Northam bridge which is already traffic heavy making this worse.

The bridge toll should not be increased. It is not fair to put this cost on residents. We already pay Road tax to upkeep the roads so that should be sufficient to upkeep itchen bridge. With an ever growing population you will inevitably have more use on the roads, so trying to increase an unfair payment on people using those roads because more people are on the roads, because population is increasing over time, is ridiculous.

This should be free for SO19 residents. The infrastructure of exiting residential roads in Woolston is not practical for all of the traffic to avoid paying a toll, travelling through Peartree and down Athelstan to get into the city to work. You require employees in our city in order to continue to make revenue and this is just one more way of taking money from hard workers. At least retain the off peak charge for SO19 residents!! There's no way that the Bursledon Rd/Maybray King Way would EVER cope with all of the Itchen Bridge traffic being diverted that way, if everyone stopped using the bridge.

There is always a traffic jam in rush hours in the morning and afternoon. Long queues and delayed buses. Very good initiative, although it should have been done long time ago.

The fact that you are asking residents to pay a higher toll off peak is despicable, especially in the current economic climate. Your reasons for the toll are to manage traffic & maintenance. Increasing the costs of this does not manage traffic. People will use the bridge at specific times of the day due to travelling to work. This is called peak times. You've just increased the peak time amounts, so now you're trying to justify increasing the off peak amount to this. It's hard enough commuting through the city due to the ridiculous traffic calming measures & now people are going to be forced to use Northam bridge for access to the city. If you use public transport which currently a shambles, you're stuck in traffic. It makes no difference to the time of your journey on the bus or driving by car. And now the increase will just make it even worse!

The bridge was built by tax payers money and should be free off charge.

I object to the off peak concessions being removed for residents.

I'm supportive of increasing HGV tolls.

Test

I do not feel this is appropriate at a time when personal incomes are under pressure.

I do not agree with proposed changes. The residents of Southampton should not be paying for crossing the bridge at all. I do not believe it costs this much to complete repairs on the bridge. In the last 10 years all I noticed is the new lights on the bridge were added. I think this money from toll bridge is mostly for City Councils own benefit. Also increasing the toll doesn't make the traffic flow this is just some nonsense given to residents so the changes can be implemented by Council.

Again you are hammering the motorist to pay for your incompetence. You are not helping the residents at all during the cost of living crisis.

The maintenance needs to be done and needs to be paid for, and the increased tolls will do that. Plus it's not a big increase for residents and I don't often travel by car anyway.

Some of us who choose to live on the east side of the city have no choice but to use a car and the bridge when we need to be at the bottom end of the town for appointments especially when disability means that we can't use busses so we will be penalised again when short of money already as disability money will only stretch so far

I think it's disgusting that residents still have to pay to get across to town, by pushing people into other routes will make already congested roads even worse, affecting the air pollution even more, this council has done nothing in recent years to help traffic to move smoothly in this city, as a bus driver I do nothing but sit in traffic. Why people would come to shop in this city on a Saturday when there is football and 4 cruise ships in is beyond me, bet they only do it once and then choose another city to shop at!
You've had enough increases on this bridge in the last year!

The bridge tolls have been raised multiple times in recent years when the bridge has paid for itself multiple times over. Increasing again will make town inaccessible to many who cannot pay higher prices and thus affecting the businesses within town.

Want an outline of how the cost increase will be spent

The cost of the bridge is high enough. If the aim of the toll is to reduce traffic the off peak toll should not be impacted. This should remain the same to encourage travel outside of rush hour.

The Itchen Bridge gets enough money from users. Taking away off peak charges penalises locals who need to use it and forcing users to take alternative routes to avoid the charges. This then means cars are making longer journeys than necessary.

Absolute conning bastards the lot of you at the council

Ok have £1 during day but have free from midnight till 0500 robbing bastards

I don't feel there should be a fee yet alone an increase!

The fees are already enough for people struggling, they have continually been raised again again, despite the cost savings that must have come with automating the machines and removing staff.

Southampton is nearly at a state of beyond repair - the council is doing nothing to incentivise businesses and visitors (outside cruise ships!!). It's becoming an awful place to live and all this supports is contributing to driving people out, what the council needs to be focusing on is creating a thriving city that people actually want to visit, not thinking how can we extort more money out of locals

Costing working class families a lot more a year. You say this is a minor increase but when this is added up it is adding hundreds of pounds a year to already struggling families especially during a cost of living crisis. It will put more strain on traffic and other bridges.

Objection to the Southampton City Council's Proposal to Increase HGV Charges:

1. Burden on Local Businesses:

Increasing HGV charges will place an undue financial burden on local businesses in the area. Local businesses already face numerous challenges, especially with the economic impacts of the ongoing pandemic. The additional cost of higher HGV charges will be passed on to consumers, which could lead to increased prices for goods and services. This can ultimately deter customers and hinder economic growth in the region.

2. Longer Delivery Routes:

Higher HGV charges may incentivise truck drivers to opt for longer delivery routes to avoid the increased costs. Longer journeys not only lead to higher fuel consumption but also increased wear and tear on the vehicles, resulting in more frequent maintenance expenses. Additionally, longer routes may result in extended travel times, which can disrupt delivery schedules and lead to delays for businesses and consumers.

3. Increased Air Pollution:

One of the unintended consequences of longer delivery routes is the potential for increased air pollution. According to data from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, heavy-duty trucks are significant contributors to air pollution, particularly in terms of nitrogen oxide emissions. A study has shown that for every additional five miles travelled by HGVs, there is an estimated increase in emissions of 5% to 10% (EPA, "Emission Facts: Average Heavy-Duty Truck Emissions"). This means that longer journeys caused by increased charges can have a measurable impact on local air quality, which is detrimental to public health and the environment.

Objection to the Toll Bridge and Air Pollution:

1. Toll Bridge Costs Recovered:

The toll bridge in question was initially implemented to fund its construction and maintenance. If the costs of the toll bridge have been recovered, there is a strong argument to remove or reduce tolls. Continuing to charge tolls when the original financial objectives have been met can be viewed as unjust and could be considered a form of taxation without representation.

2. Air Pollution from Bridge Queues:

It's evident that the toll bridge is contributing to air pollution due to long queues during rush hours. This problem is not only an environmental concern but also a public health issue. According to data from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), long exposure to traffic-related air pollution can lead to various health problems, including respiratory issues, cardiovascular diseases, and even premature mortality.

3. Impact on Local Economy:

The toll costs and traffic congestion resulting from long queues during rush hours can discourage people from traveling into the city to spend money. Businesses in the city center may suffer due to decreased foot traffic, resulting in economic losses and potential job layoffs. This can have a cascading effect on the local economy, as it discourages economic activity and investment in the region.

In conclusion, there are valid objections to both the proposal to increase HGV charges and the continued tolls on the bridge. These objections are based on concerns about the impact on local businesses, longer delivery routes and increased air pollution, as well as the need to reevaluate tolls after cost recovery and address the negative consequences of traffic congestion.

It should be free to locals You get a budget every year stick to it don't waste money on stupid roadworks especially cycle lanes

The same amount of traffic will use the bridge. The council just want more money.

Again the council trying to increase cash flow to stop going bankrupt

The bridge toll area is outdated. It creates more traffic due to the lack of technology. You do not allow ANPR account so that it creates free flow. Instead the barriers are hit and cars get stuck with no other route. If the money was being spent on infrastructure technology improvements it would gain my approval

After paying the road tax and the increased Council taxes every year, this seems to another service that is charged higher but service is reduced!

Bridge should be free for residents, could be done based on scanning art card (with expiry date so has to be renewed every 2-3-4 years). Cobden bridge is always blocked. This would smooth traffic and also reduce CO2- shorter journeys.

As a local resident I'm lucky enough to have a SmartCard and pay a discounted rate. I don't understand the reason to remove the off-peak charge and only keep the peak charges. If you want to make it just one rate then it'd be appreciated that you choose the lower charge.

I live within 0.5 mile from the bridge so have no choice but to use it and even with smart cities card, the price continues to escalate!!

If there were no long queues at night I might not mind but the route is not quicker and am paying to sit in traffic. Off peak should stay even though I don't receive this much as work 9 to 5.

By increasing the toll, you are only going to divert more traffic over Northam Bridge. This route is already very busy and is regularly congested. More cars will sit idle in traffic, increasing air pollution.

This is good, not only will it go towards maintaining the bridge which is necessitated by vehicular traffic, but it's also likely to encourage walking or journeying by public transport/bicycle for shorter journeys-which the council is rightfully trying to encourage.

Local residents tolls should not be increased again. Not only will this increase necessary expenses for those working in areas not easily accessible by public transport (such as Totton from Woolston) but also if people were to take longer alternative routes this would create a higher environmental impact, as well as more of a bottle neck for traffic on already limited routes.

Local residents to the kitchen bridge are being discriminated against having charges to use the bridge increased. As a Woolston resident this is my direct route into and out of the city. Residents local to Northern bridge or Cobden bridge have free access, so we're being penalised. Increasing the cost to HGV's is more understandable however not to the normal family car/van driver. I oppose the removal of the off-peak charge and discount for local residents.

Insufficient information has been provided re cost of maintenance versus income generated by toll. This needs to be made explicit. If evidence of income v expenditure is provided and showed a justifiable increase then I should be happier to contribute.

Originally the reduced rate was for Woolston Residents only. It has now been extended to anyone who lives in the city. There should be some recognition that for Woolston Residents to use alternative routes into the city is not an environmentally friendly option.

If the increase is to encourage residents to use the buses then the bus service needs significant improvement. Until very recently if I went into the city I would use public transport but the 10 minute service on my route is now completely erratic and a wait of 30 minutes plus not uncommon. Buses appear scared to travel on my route now unless in a minimum of pairs.

I have to use the bridge 6 days a week for work it's a joke that you are considering putting the price up so soon, my street has the lights turned off during the night what more does the council want from us it's ridiculous.

I oppose any changes. This bridge should be made free to use. No work is ever carried out to maintain it. The booths don't give change and most residents will agree it's just another way to collect money from residents to be used elsewhere.

We already pay enough! It's ridiculous! We live in Woolston and it's our main route into the city centre, it's just a further tax on us during a time when everything costs more.

Seems reasonable when the council needs money, simpler too

I'm local, and have a SmartCities card. My concern with the proposal is that it may 1) reduce income by encouraging use of other routes, which could 2) lengthen journeys and therefore increase vehicle related emissions within the Southampton City area.

I believe that it is already too expensive, and this may deter people going into the city centre from the Woolston side of the bridge and have a negative impact on trade

The Bridge was promised to be free years ago when it was proposed as per usual from a business as that's what councils are rip off the normal person in the street!

It's too expensive as it is, scc waste money pointless roadworks , funding never put into correct pots. Children with special educational needs ignored and funding striped, the amount of council tax and road tax paid in soton should be more than enough to maintain the bridge for Southampton residents

It's already been raised a few times in the last couple of years not fair on local residents who live local to the bridge that will then have to drive out there way to stop using it which will add on a lot of commute time.

Will disabled drivers still be able to cross for free?

I believe that removing off peak options from the bridge will remove the incentive for people to travel at quieter times and potentially increase traffic in peak times. This would make congestion worse and increase pollution contrary to the councils stated aims.

I live on the east side of the city and to enter my city centre I have to pay a fee. We were told when the bridge first opened we would only be charged for a short while and then it would be free. I have travelled through Scotland and over the many bridges there free of charge and much bigger bridges than the short itchen bridge so explain why they are free but Southampton charge. I very rarely go into town now because of this charge I take my custom to Fareham rather than be ripped off in my home city. You need to offer free passage to so19 residents, we are a part of the city as well.

The price of crossing the bridge has nearly doubled already in only a few years so to scrap the lower fee for off peak as well is just extortionate. The bridge has been paid for, why are we still paying to cross it when we have other bridges that are free. I live in so19 but I actually take the northam bridge route sometimes because I would rather spend the fuel money than give you money you're not entitled to. Terrible idea from people I assume either do not live in the area or do not have bills to pay.

The money you take in from tolls does not equal the amount you spend on the upkeep of the bridge over the years. Stop exploiting drivers who use this route of travel especially late at night when no public transportation is available

I feel in the cost of living crisis it's unfair to subject the residents of so19 and so18 to extra costs

I live a 1 minute drive from bridge and therefore would use more petrol to go over a non charging bridge , if I have to I would not go into the city and businesses would suffer.

Objecting the removal of off peak discount. This encourages people to change their journeys to be at times when there is less traffic. Removing off peak discount will mean more traffic at peak times.

1. By removing off peak tolls there is less of an incentive to not travel in peak times, increasing rush hour congestion and making pollution worse?

2. The amount of morning bridge users are working parents, it's a rush to get school run done and off to work ourselves - meaning putting toll prices up is not going to make people not use it. As driving is only going to ever be the option for working parents. Squeezing in every hour to bring home money to live in this messed up world ...to then rush back and pick children up.

3. Stop trying to cause more mayhem

I need to travel over the bridge twice daily (in each direction), for a total of four tolls per day. The cost has risen exponentially over the years, and in this economic climate it's ridiculous to increase it yet again.

Another increase to the toll on the bridge is not the answer to the councils proposed spending of £5m on the bridge. It would be interesting to see how much the upkeep on the bridge alone costs

profits gained already show this isn't in line with cost of living

It was not so long ago that the tolls were increased. The bridge has been a cash cow for far too long. Give the poor motorists a break!

Think local residents should be free. Agree with hgvs increase.

This comment I know will be a pointless exercise, the residents of this city have not agreed with other implemented proposals that this council has put in place, like 20 mph speed limits on none built up areas, 30 mph limits on dual carage ways and roads being closed at school entrance ways, instead teach the green cross code in these schools, or shall I ask you for compensation for the extra brake pad wear or for the damaged caused when I have to drive constantly at a speed my automatic car is not to drive at, or do I receive compensation for driving a car that has a speed restriction added but doesn't operate below 30 mph, of course I don't, so instead of taking a journey that takes 15 minutes across a bridge at 30 mph I have to to take a longer route that will take 45 minutes travelling at 20 mph for half of it to get to the same destination, it doesn't make a sense, If you don't have enough money to run your business you cut back on expenses and your biggest expense is Ceo's that earn more money than the prime minister,

Why should "I" a person that earns less than 12,000 a year pay for someone who earns 100,000 a year that doesn't have any interest in looking after the welfare of my home

Cost of fuel is high, cost of living is high increasing costs further on the toll bridge will just add more traffic to surrounding roads and increase travel costs further, Not only the environmental impact of increasing pollution levels - how this can be justified is beyond me!

The negative impact of the increasing costs here are only to the council suggesting them

Supportive that there are no changes to residents charges. The bridge is still busy during off peak times, so £1 is a fair charge

There is only one proposal, half of journeys at off peak? Obviously. Doubling your income . Congestion charge by back door

I am partly objecting on these proposals. I agree that raising charges for HGVs is a good idea. But for residents who need to get into the city I am opposing the increase to a standard off peak price. As someone who lives in Weston, my children go to school in town at Hope Community School and I work at the civic - we already find the charges are too much spending over a pound most days which feels a little unfair as we only have to pay this based on where we live in the city. To raise this further when charges and the cost of living is generally going up everywhere feels like an additional cost to people trying to get by. My husband works full time, I myself two days a week (I have a two year old) and we don't need further increases to our cost of living.

Absolute disgrace. The council is almost bankrupt and yet again the working class car/van drivers are to be fleeced for more cash. This has nothing to do with surface and traffic flow costs and all to do with money however you dress it up. Because I live in Woolston you are discriminating against me. Why not put a toll on the millbrook road west flyovers which seem to be in constant repair state. I promise to add to the traffic coming over northam bridge if this goes ahead.

Because when the bridge was first built once the bridge had paid for itself it was going to be free. I understand paying a little for general upkeep but the charges you are asking is too much .

I think it's great to have consistency for car drivers and to charge more to the larger vehicles who block up the roads and bring more pollution

Getting rid of the off peak charges is not fair to local residents. If the proposal is to reduce emissions / encourage road users to take buses / public transport this will not work. It will push car users to other already congested roads in the morning, increasing queue times and ultimately emissions. I understand the bridge needs to be maintained however please consider the impact this may have on people when there is already a cost of living crisis. Prices are increasing everywhere and this is a cost that does not need to be increased. I feel the charge on HGV is excessive however can understand they put higher pressures on the bridge, perhaps a smaller increase would be appropriate. Or just increase for hgv drivers to cover costs. Southampton is already becoming very difficult to drive in with the newly imposed 20mph speed limits and closing roads to public only allowing taxis and buses. Although the change recommended is only small it will be unsettling for many road users.

It's going to cause even more mayhem to what is already a congested route to the city on bitterne road and will cause even more pollution to these areas as people would rather drive a bit further to get into the city for free!

Rip off when the toll was only meant to be a temporary measure. How we can restrict and charge people to travel within our own city is ludicrous.

The Council has stated that it is unlikely the Planned Works to the bridge will receive Government funding as the bridge is " not a key strategic transport route" yet further into the article Councillor Eamonn Keogh (cabinet member for Environment and Transport) is quoted as saying "investment in the bridge is necessary if this KEY link between communities" my question to the Council is , is it or isn't it ?

Secondly

According to the Freedom of Information Act the Itchen Bridge made a surplus of approx £2.344 million in the year 2021/2022, I think it would be a fair assumption that similar profits will be recorded for 2022/2023, if you combine these profits it gets very close to the £5million quoted for the upcoming works.

My question is, if the Council knew these works were to be carried out, what were the profits made by the bridge spent on ? And why weren't they set aside for " essential " maintenance.

It is clear to me the proposed increase in the toll is purely to try to plug the gap in this Councils profligacy.

Residents in the east of the city are punished based on their postcode. The majority of cars entering the city from outside the city boundary tend to come over Northam bridge. Makes more sense to make every entry into the city centre a toll. This is just punitive and unreasonable for east side residents.

The bridge is part of the highways which should be funded in the same way as all other roads. There is no need for this huge change at this time of extreme hardship.

the toll on this bridge serves no other purpose than a cash grab on local motorists and raising the tolls again is completely unjustifiable. why not make every road in the city a toll road??! Ridiculous. The toll should be scrapped not increased. I don't care about the Councils poor management of financials and dire budget position - that is their problem to solve.

Significant traffic at peak hours, delaying everyone, even those not using the bridge. Why would you actively choose to increase usage at that time?

I do not believe that the residents should have a price increase on the Smart Cities cards. We pay a vat amount on council tax, which I haven't seen a benefit from in my community. I do not think it's fair to penalise residents further by this additional increase.

The Itchen Bridge was supposed to provide a good crossing and you are suggesting now that drivers should take a detour on already congested roads so that you can rake in more money! No!

Object to removal of off peak for class 2 vehicles.

It's about time the toll's on this bridge were removed altogether, not increase them. It's a poor way of boosting the council coffers by fleecing motorists once again.

As a local resident I only use the bridge at Off peak times commuting to and from the hospital 5 days a week. So, I will stop using the bridge and go around since although it will cost more in fuel and extra time it will still be cheaper than paying peak rate twice a day 5 days a week if it is increased.

Woolston residents ought to be exempt from paying a toll to use the bridge.

As a resident I welcome the continuation of the Smartcities card and the small increase of 10p per journey. Sat Nav's play a part in foreign HGV's using small roads and very often have vehicles come down Bryanston Road looking to get to the industrial estate in Hazel Road.

Please do not remove the discount for residents.

I am concerned that removal of the off-peak charge will encourage more motorists to use the Itchen Bridge during the peak rush hours only adding to the congestion seen at those times. It might raise more money but at the expense of more traffic congestion ... and hence more pollution.

This will disincentivise car traffic into the city centre. However, cycle infrastructure on either end of the bridge is poor, with bike lanes on the West end being entirely unprotected and on the East end being both unprotected and ending abruptly. Improving cycling infrastructure here would make a more meaningful difference to how residents choose to use the bridge.

£40 for an HGV is ludicrous £25 is too much - be reasonable. The more you put up costs the more businesses put up costs the less people have to spend in Southampton

Cars should have a minimum toll of 50p per crossing and it should be free between 6pm and 6am

Shouldn't have to pay at all!

The increase in toll bridge charges is unfair to residents. The bridge is a very useful asset to the residents on the East side of Southampton. It has already increased in recent years.

It will become increasingly difficult, especially during a cost of living crisis, for people to use the bridge. My other objection is the huge increase in HGV costs to use the bridge. This not only comes at a very difficult time for businesses, especially local ones, but will result in everyone paying more for the goods being transported as companies will pass on the costs.

My view is that tolls should be scrapped completely on this bridge. Surely 40 years on there is no need to still be paying for the bridge.

In addition, many cars go the long way round to avoid paying the toll, additional to increased traffic and pollution.

I know that the Council is strapped for cash, but tolls like these punish the poorer off in society.

Removing the off peak charge is another "tax" on local residents. It does not make sense environmentally or financially for local drivers (eg weston, woolston etc) to drive to use Bitterne Rd and Northam Bridge

Your reason to increase charges because of maintenance work for 24 /25. How much has been spent on maintenance in the last 3 years.

I think there should be a lot more toll roads around Southampton with the proceeds funding better mass transit.

I think the increases are short sighted. People will use alternative roads, so the repair work will transfer to another road, this will not save any money. I also think it is insensitive to hit people and businesses with further cost increases during this time.

Forcing drivers to use alternative longer routes does not help with the city's pollution problems.

Cost of living and people need to get to work

Again another money grabbing solution from City council! Unbelievable taking away the off peak part. Penalising people on the east side of the city!! And at a time when people are massively struggling with the cost of living! Although not much point in asking peoples comments as you will do what you want!!!!!!

Normally a public consultation by a council means you've already decided and will go ahead whatever the consultation comes up with.

Reinstate the zero emissions nil toll rate to encourage use of environmentally friendly vehicles and improve air quality

Will result in volume increase on other roads. Others schemes are encouraging use of town quay so that will in result in further travel more cost for residents on east side and of more congestion to what already exists creating more pollution. It seems to me it's local people that use off peak and they are the ones who suffer most. SCC knew full well when the bridge was commissioned it would not attract any future Gov funding but still went ahead with it now you expect residents to cover the cost of your vanity project and egos. The bridge would have to be maintained unless it was knocked down this proposal will only reduce income and reduce still further city centre footfall

I think the toll is too high as it is and it could be bad for Southampton by limiting people coming into the city.

As a Woolston resident I am subjected to paying an extra tax in order to go into Southampton. It is the only bridge in Southampton that charges a toll. It is an unfair tax and I object to being made to pay more

It's disgusting you said it would be free once laid for.

It's disgusting that you are trying to claw more money from Southampton residents. At a time when people are not only struggling with affording to just live, but the high street it also suffering with online competition.

You should back away from this way Earning back the massive amounts you wasted and lost on the failed bus lane on Avenue and look at something a lot more productive such as by increasing speeding fines.

The off-peak rate is designed to encourage people to use the bridge outside the rush hour. Abolishing it will make rush hour traffic worse. It's bad enough as it is!

Just a money making scheme yet again. There is regularly an issue when trying to top up cards. Failing reading plates and not opening enough lanes to co with rush hour direction of traffic. You don't even employ staff now.

Although the Bridge continues to require investment the burden of this should not fall to local tax payers. It is well know that Southampton City Council is struggling financially and this is clearly an attempt to fill some of that void at the expense of the public. there should l'm fact be a reduction in the toll charge (especially local residents) until such time as high standard park and rides are implemented on the Woolston side of the bridge and improved road layouts are set up to reduce congestion.

Why do cars entering the city from the west and north, and Northam Bridge not have to pay a toll. Why do y you ask Centrsl Government for a grant.

So long as the cost for residents remains reasonable, I support measures to reduce non local traffic using Portsmouth Road - particularly lorries.

The whole traffic infrastructure needs to be addressed not just making car drivers pay more when they are already paying more for fuel. The traffic queues accessing the bridge at rush hour create high levels of pollution due to poor traffic light management and the use of contactless payments or apple pay etc which are slower to process than the bridge card

It is ridiculous, I have no choice but to go over the bridge to get to work and my girlfriend's house. I have to live outside of the city due to lack of appropriate housing and due to congestion in the city. I spend about 20 pounds a week on the toll bridge. With this new cost of living crisis I'm struggling to pay all my bills, feed myself and do basic activities this extra 20 pounds a week isn't helping. It is absolutely ridiculous you guys really do take the piss.

Considering the cost of living crisis, I am shocked and disgusted that the council want to increase the toll charge yet again. The comment that the bridge is a key link for Southampton's communities is correct, but it has become apparent that this is being used as an excuse to charge more and more. I would very much like to see an in-depth outline on how much the bridge costs to maintain yearly and how much has been collected from the toll charges, going back at least 5 years.

There was a cost of living summit held in October, the aim of which was to discover what we can do to combat the crisis together. Southampton City Council were a key partner in this summit. So to now up the toll charges during the crisis (again!) by removing the off-peak charge is a farce.

People are struggling. Residents can't help where they live, and to have their charge increased will only mean that other routes will become even more busy, clogging up roads and making air pollution worse. I believe this will make Residents not visit Southampton recreationally as this added cost will have to be considered in their costs and in the end shops and businesses will be affected, it's already not recovered post covid. You should be encouraging growth by allowing drivers to visit Southampton easier not make it more expensive, you've already reinstated the evening parking charge. If charges are required to upkeep the bridge then make those who are not Residents pay more, like businesses. People who commute daily into Southampton shouldn't have their charges increased, they have to go to work and travel is very expensive as is, things are already burdensome, you've put up parking, petrol is still expensive, insurance has gone up at least 40% extra. This war on drivers is unfair. As someone who lives in Solihull I don't feel safe after dark, I already stay home a lot more, bus is not an option as I would have to walk alone in the dark, I rely on my car for safety and live right by the bridge, I would have to do a massive u-turn to get into Southampton to avoid the toll. You may call it a small increase but to those affected it adds up.

Strongly object. I pay council tax and it's an essential route for me. Absolutely disgusting even proposing this change. Make it free for all and stop attacking motorists.

It's unfair for people living or working on the east side of the water to be penalised with increased toll charges. It will drive more traffic through town on the Northam Bridge.

Per person this seems an acceptable raise.

Before any proposal is put forward, a full financial record should be made available to the public, to include all expenditure and all income. If the bridge has been paid for, there must be a massive amount in this account. Therefore, with full transparency a fair recommendation can be made, and the paying Council residents can possibly come up with alternate recommendations. If this is available please let the public know where to find this information.

I believe the off peak period should remain but are in agreement for the local residents costs to be increased but for this benefit to still remain in place

Whilst I agree in principle for the costs to increase for general users, I object to the increase for SO19 residents. One of the main reasons for the toll as explained on the intro is to control the flow of traffic, so it should be those from outside the area contributing more because they are one of the main volume increases.

To even consider removing the off-peak cost is appalling, and downright shocking. To punish people for using a road that everyone should be able to use is just awful. £1 for each trip is an absolute joke, and to then enforce that for all times of the day is ridiculous. It will put people off of visiting the city and residents from going into the city centre. It will cause shops to lose business most definitely, as people are struggling as it is right now and do not need to be worrying about paying a stupid £1 charge each way. I'm local so have a smart cities card, but I still find it shocking that I should have to pay 40p each way to go into another part of my home city. Why should residents be expected to pay to go into their own city?? You think it is ok to allow people to have to pay to go to the hospital if they live on the other side of the water? Disgusting. With all of this, it will put more pressure on the other bridges. Causing more congestion and pollution. It's already bad enough as it is at peak times for traffic. But to finish it off, charging large vehicles £40 to cross is actually astounding. Must be the most expensive toll bridge in the entire country at that rate! As a port city that relies on people taking cruise ships and importing goods as profit, this sort of thing really confuses me. It just puts people off and will negatively effect the city's income. Additionally, as a local I have seen what this current council has done to our roads and it is appalling. Closing roads for weeks or months (causing more congestion in the city) to put in stupid road layouts that have caused multiple accidents and not fill in pot holes properly. What are our taxes paying for? Because it feels like they do nothing but get thrown at the next unnecessary project the council feels with gain them more money, and cause residents to suffer.

As a local person that lives very close to the bridge I do not believe it is fair I pay full peak rate, which I guess you will increase further!, just because of my location to access the city centre. This proposal will force me to travel further and use alternative routes to get to town adding to congestion and air pollution, as it will be a cheaper alternative to going over the bridge.

Cars impact the bridge less than HGV vehicles, so the charges for HGV vehicles should be increased as this can be arranged to be paid by the companies who require them to go over the itchen bridge constantly. To punish the people who are taking their cars over to town is a disgrace. This council needs to realise that all that will happen with this is people will use the itchen bridge less and start to use other routes such as northern bridge....which will then have an impact on that bridge and require the council to pay out for repairs regardless. I believe that the rates should stay the same for cars ,or even reduced slightly, as this will keep people going over the itchen bridge, which will provide some funds aswell as the increased funds the council will get from HGV vehicles as I proposed previously.

The bankrupt council has to get money somewhere when they are happy to lose thousands in closing a very busy car park at Albion Place and converting it to grass how crazy is that its scandalous

Local residents travelling to work in the city have had recent parking charge increases and petrol increases. An increase in toll for residents is not sustainable and may result in more people working from home therefore not utilising businesses in the city for lunch/shopping etc.

I am a local resident. By removing the off-peak charge there is no incentive to travel outside the peak period.

All local residents of Woolston, Peartree and Sholing should be able to use the Itchen Bridge for free with a reduced toll for other Southampton tax payers (controlled via the Smartcities card). Non Southampton tax payers should continue to pay the full fee.

It's already expensive if you live in the east side in Woolston it's unfair as we use the bridge regularly

The price of the tolls has already increased making it very expensive for the small amount of convenience. We generally only use the bridge when there is congestion or closures on other routes into or out of the city, otherwise it isn't worth the price for the small amount of convenience. By removing the off peak pricing you will be removing incentive for people to travel at off peak, or to use the bridge at all. It will not discourage people from driving, some of us have no choice as our routes aren't serviced by suitable public transport options, it will just be increasing congestion on other routes.

Drivers should be encouraged to use the bridge at off peak times or traffic jams will increase at peak times. This is just an excuse to put prices up.

The bridge should be free for cars, as the promise made to the people of Southampton was that it would be free once the build cost was paid for.

If the argument is the damage to the road surface, I would suggest this is caused by the increased volume of large tipper trucks and articulated vehicles which get a large reduction in toll in the concession charge. Rather than penalising class 2 cars living in Woolston, charge all vehicles OVER 7.5t the full £25 toll.

Another fee earner would be to impose penalties for motor bike using the cycle lanes (often at speeds over 30 mph) which has become common place over the past 12 months.

There are far too many HGVs using Portsmouth Road, a higher fee to cross the bridge would incentivise heavy vehicles to use the much better suited Bitterne Road West route.

To encourage more people to cycle and upkeep / maintenance of the bridge.

Living in Woolston I don't have any other option than to use the Itchen Bridge without it causing more pollution and costing more in petrol

The 2 tier tariff encourages drivers to avoid busy times and spreads traffic out over a longer period. It seems a cynical way to generate additional revenue and create more congestion.

We can go to Whitely without paying a toll for the bridge and not pay to park. Increasing the bridge toll will simply be another nail in the coffin for Southampton's shops. This is a short sighted proposal at a time when there is a cost of living crisis.

Seems a way of raising monies. I note there is no income in the documents, but expenditure is listed at £5 million

The LATEST proposed rise cannot be reasonably expected to have a significant effect on congestion, but it can be expected to raise a lot of extra revenue for the council.

Councillor Keogh has told me he believes in being fair to both the council and residents. This move doesn't appear to meet with his stated values!

The bridge should be free, increasing prices when people are struggling will result in greater poverty. This will mean drivers may go other routes, thus increasing journey times, congestion on other roads and thus pollution!

Athelstan Road will see a large increase in traffic, a road that is poorly laid out and surfaced. Also it will increase the number of illegal oversized vehicles using Athelstan Road.

What is Labour's issue with motorists, it will cost you the council again.

Your proposal to increase off-peak fees for class 2 vehicles and fees for lorries, will simply dissuade drivers of those vehicles from using the bridge. This will have a three-fold effect. Firstly, it will reduce the amount of money raised by bridge tolls. Secondly, it will significantly increase traffic on alternative routes. Thirdly, it will mean that the Itchen bridge will be under-utilised. Also, increased traffic on alternative, longer routes, will increase CO2 pollution on those routes.

While you say the additional revenue is required for maintenance & upgrading of the bridge, you:

A) Haven't said what those upgrades will be. And;

B) You haven't told the public how much income the bridge already generates per year.

This is essential information so us paying residents know exactly where the current bridge income is spent.

Also, C) Why is the Labour council so intent on wasting MILLIONS of pounds on unnecessary cycle lanes that nobody wants, nobody needs, and were PROVED to be a total & utter dud during your last period in charge?

Instead you could & should be spending that money on ESSENTIAL roadworks, such as repaving the streets & pavements, which are like driving & walking over a ploughed field.

Why is the Labour council so intent on wasting money on vanity schemes instead of investing it in essential works?

Local residents in Woolston and Sholing with a smart card should be able to travel free as they have paid for these for years at the same level as non-local residents. Due to the locality it's their only option

I believe the crossing should be free for local residents by way of a card to cross. Then fees can be paid by all those trying to access southampton from outside the local area.

By penalising traffic crossing the bridge you are increasing the amount of vehicles driving longer distances than needed to cross the river. This increases congestion on other routes and increases pollution. This directly contradicts the council commitment to improving the environment

As a Netley Abbey resident the bridge really is the only option to get into town without spending a lot more time and emitting more emissions going via Bitterne. We are not offered any resident discount and the cost is already quite eye watering for the 2 minute drive across.

This is an easy option to gain revenue and the maintenance of the bridge is in part a smoke screen.

The so called link should not be exploited for your gain and to make up for obvious financial challenges you face OR, be transparent and honest.

For example, if my extra 20 p per trip was fairly and rightfully used (it's not all for the maintenance of the bridge) I would accept it but again I am fortunate in that I can afford this increase others can not.

Never seen any maintenance done to it! It's a fucking joke. I travelled across it during peak traffic to pick my wife up from the basepoint industrial estate where she works (£40 a month that costs to cross that bridge and work there.)counted 300 cars going towards Woolston, on the way back it took us 5 minutes to cross the bridge. That's £1500 every 5 minutes during peak traffic in one direction. It should be free as Southampton city council don't spend any money repairing the pot holes across the city. They prefer to waste money on stupid islands like the ones on obelisk road and closing the roads for weeks.

the proposals seem vague on detail at the moment.; what will be the actual car tolls for those currently with post codes from the Woolston./Sholing side...will there be any discounted toll at all?...how about EV's...these still impact to the road surface so will these vehicles be included in the tolls? If all vehicles were EV's there would under the current scheme be an exemption yet continual wear to the surface?

This bridge is nothing but a cash machine, no improvements are made and no notice is ever taken. Maybe put some high fencing up to stop people jumping and attempting or taking their lives.

It's nothing but a bank roll for the council.

There are not really alternative roads to access town that won't make traffic even worse and pollute extra as doing a long detour. People living in this area we don't have a choice but to use the bridge and the removal of the concession rate will take a huge hit in our pockets when we are already suffering to make ends meet. Please do reconsider

The bridge charge has only just gone up, the residents of Netley don't benefit from discounted charges, yet we're an SO postcode and the bridge is our main route to get to work, your literally pricing me out of working, my wages aren't raising to cover the bridge charge keep going up. As the charges have already been put up and card holders hadn't. Why can't you leave it as 80p off peak and £1 peak and raise card holders prices more, as it these car users that should be encouraged to use public transport but are being encouraged to drive because it's cheaper for them, Southampton residents should go up to £60 off peak and £80 peak as it's these people that will use the bridge more often. You will just put more pressure on other roads because people can no longer afford to go over itchen bridge. Southampton makes millions off that bridge already certainly enough to maintain it.

If you discourage people from using the Itchen Bridge you will move the traffic onto Northam Road which is already busy enough and needs sorting out also

Increasing the tolls in the middle of a cost of living crisis is not good. Couldn't you at least delay till things settle down a bit

The increase in the price of the toll will have an impact on the high street economy. The council appears to want to deter all cars going into the city, but then wonder why the high street economy is dying. The cost for cars may appear small but adds up when there is a cost of living crisis. Equally the cost for HGVs could cripple the docks and again the city. Surely the city needs to consider the impact on the wider community and keeping money coming into the city. I think £40 is excessive and will stop goods coming into the city.

just a tax on the poor—we were promised that the toll would be free when paid for and funny how now council deny it and the notes of that meeting have gone missing—charge cyclists to use it then as well and to stop hgv using portsmouth road, just ban them and put up sign saying no hgv -the extra charge will be passed onto the public=keogh must resign, he hates cars [ABUSIVE CONTENT REMOVED]

Will increase air pollution in city due to people avoiding the toll.

I live SO31 5GL postcode (Eastleigh BC) 100 yards from Southampton border and get no concessions. So I never go shopping in Southampton I go Whiteley and hedge ends. Too expensive to cross bridge and park!

huge discrepancy between 'residents' and 'non residents' even though the distance between the two can be only a 200 feet. instead makes people drive away from the bridge causing more pollution and more traffic in a different area and adds to their travel time. if prices rise concessions need to be the first to rise and this is a ridiculous difference

Diversion of HGVs to other routes into city, specifically Cobden Bridge. My concern is threefold; 1, Pedestrian safety particularly at the Triangle; 2, increasing air pollution due to increased traffic and congestion in the St Denys Road area; and 3, wear and tear on the road structure.

I have to use the bridge multiple times a day to collect and drop off my step daughter from her nursery. It costs a ridiculous amount of money to get my step daughter - it's a joke

Toll bridge price increase unreasonable as only recently increased !

This should NOT be funding the

Councils poor financial situation - the cost of the bridge has been paid off for years stop ripping local people off ! You have increased council tax and have enough money from residents as it is - this makes me so angry !

People who use the bridge should pay for it.

As a local resident/senior citizen age, this proposal/increase comes in the same year as a substantial council tax increase, garden waste bin increase and imminent city car parking charges increase. I feel that I will not be alone in keeping visits to the City at a minimum.

Why is this still happening us residents who hVe paid for this bridge 1000 times over its ridiculous. How can the money just simply be going on repairs when there is never any work to be seen being done!!!

The bridge was supposed to have paid for itself many, many years ago. My son finds it very expensive travelling to and fro each day to visit me.

This is extortionate and you've only just put the prices up. Plus you have already paid for the bridge so you're being greedy now

If the upkeep is linked to the amount of heavy goods vehicles traversing the bridge why not simply ban them and keep the cost for residents the same?

The cost is already extraordinarily high. I think it should be reduced at all times, but to increase it in off peak times just seems wrong. It will not encourage people to use the bridge, thus increasing traffic through Bitterne. Feels greedy....

Yes. Increasing tolls will help pay for the continual maintenance of this ageing concrete structure and help to reduce traffic on this route, encouraging bus and cycle travel.

The upkeep for this bridge has more than paid for itself through tolls

Why did you make the stupid mistake in closing castle way and Albion street car parks you will lose the revenue now and we the people who pay your wages just for you to continue to make schoolboy errors

It should be free to cross the bridge. How can you justify increasing costs when there is such a major cost of living crisis

You increased the toll charge recently, and now you're doing it again, explain how this is fair to people who rely on the bridge to get to work! You last reported an enormous profit from the toll increase, so much so, the £2.5m excess profits were distributed across other Southampton sectors, so why are you increasing it again?! The bridge is not a subsidiary for funding poorly managed budgets of other sectors!

You claim this increase is for maintenance costs, by I have used this bridge 5 days a week for 7 years and I have not seen one person work on it, so how can you claim this is for maintenance??

This is purely a money making scheme to line your pockets, plain and simple; you take us for fools if you think we'll believe anything but!

Sadly we know this is just a formality, and you have already made your mind up, and no matter what anyone else or how many people object, you will do what you want. I just hope more people wake up to your lies and schemes, and start making a stand! Southampton is a dying city and it's stuff like this that's helping to kill it.

Southampton...what a sh!t hole...

It costs a lot already for regular users and the original toll for the bridge was only meant to be temporary!

Bloody rip off, the Severn bridge is 3 times as big as this piddly assed bridge and that is FREE !!!!!

As a resident of Netley Abbey, I do not get the discounted rate, even though we are local to the bridge at only a 6 minute drive away from it. I transport my foster children to school in Millbrook twice a day 5 times a week, plus to contact at Cxford road twice a week, the quickest route is across the bridge costing me £20 per week, without the off peak reduction this would be £24 per week. £20 on top of the £50 a week I spend on petrol to do the school run is already an astronomical amount just to get children to school so any increase is going to be objected against.

I cross the bridge everyday two to three times a day all hours of the night, I have yet to see any maintenance being carried out on this bridge, the automated toll booths are useless, motorbikes don't have to pay yet use two wheels so should at least half as much as everyone else, maybe start charging them, if your looking to save money maybe look at yourselves a council like every other wasting millions of pounds of of tax payers money criminals! Should be ashamed of yourselves squeezing more money out of hard working tax payers with an extortionate convenience tax, why doesn't Northam bridge have a charge on it, sees more traffic then the itchen bridge.

Hardly ever use the bridge.

What exactly am I paying for ? I am SO19 and surely 46 years since opening the bridge should be free as promised in 1977

I live in Netley Abbey and although in the Borough of Eastleigh we are very much part of Southampton. It is very unfair that we have to pay so much to go and shop or carry out any other business in Southampton. Much less likely to go across the bridge and shop at Whitely or other out of town centers.

An extra cost to residents amongst the cost of living crisis, it's bad timing, especially with the chaos in Southampton over the past few weeks due to very bad planning of events on the part of the council and constant flooding of roads at the first drop of rain causing even more chaos. Sort out the existing problems first, making life and driving easier for residents before adding more expenses in our lives.

It should have been paid off years ago (as promised). The people of Southampton rely on the Bridge and are being held hostage by the local authority who use it as a cash cow

No justification for increasing the cost to local residents, have no issue with anyone else

Absolutely a joke charge enough already and the queueing at the gates is atrocious at times 🙄

I have cross the Itchen Bridge to travel to work. I am ostracised due to where I live. Due to the current economic crisis, the cost of living is horrendous and I am on minimum wage. This charge is targeting those that are struggling to put food on the table. It's a geographical tax on an already struggling demographic.

As a resident of Sholing I use the bridge regular as I'm a domiciliary carer sometimes it's easier to use the bridge especially as we have customer who live in Woolston and if we are at the bottom end of town it make practical sense to use the bridge I have a smart city card topping it up is already costing me enough without adding a y further increases.

Think before you make a wrong decision

Stop taking advantage of your residents and make it free as it was meant to be intended!

You're expecting a worker to spend £1460 a year crossing a bridge in a car on top of petrol.

Haven't you already stolen enough of our money with your ridiculous costs for council tax and all the rest?

The toll should have ended year ago

The cost of crossing that bridge is too excessive.

If central government will not fund council services then local residents will need to.

I feel this is purely to account for the shortfall in the councils budget due to overspending. The council should be more responsible with tax payers money and not spend money on vanity projects such as removing car parks and converting them into parks and bus station hubs. They should also look to stop funding failing leisure centres which don't have enough users and stop subsidising them in conjunction with other vanity projects including changing road layouts before looking at hiking charges for the itchen bridge. The last increase more than covers the cost of maintaining the bridge even now. This will encourage road users to use alternative longer routes into the city adding to pollution and congestion on the other routes. Access to the city shouldn't be made more difficult the congestion in and out of the city is already at breaking point!

I can't afford to visit town. I've never seen any maintenance being done on this bridge, the council is an absolute joke.

All this maintenance you say is required, I have used this bridge since 1980 and have failed to see any maintenance being done, I had a relative who used to work for S.C.C. And he said the only maintenance he saw was clearing the pigeons from under the bridge. Yet again S.C.C. Are penalising motorists. You seem hell bent on supporting cyclists who pay no contribution for using public roads,

Residents were promised when the bridge was paid for crossing it would be free. Within the current financial climate and continued tax on motorists for fuel and alike residents in SO19 with a smart card should be permitted to cross for free. SCC has wasted millions on highway schemes, such as bus and cycle lanes clogging up other bridge crossings and therefore to seek an increase is not warranted.

The city council has already increased the costs of the bridge within the last year.

The local council are meant to be ECO Friendly, why would they push traffic to drive around the long way which would cause more traffic and pollution.

Absolutely shameful! It's more about raising money due to miss using it on stupid 20 mile speed limits, traffic calming measures and cycle lanes that no one uses.

Making more and more difficult for people to get to work and causing more pollution rather than fixing the problem.

2 million pound income per year the bridge takes in, there certainly needs an investigation into the councils miss use of money. So I think it's time for a government petition to investigate this further.

You are ruining our lovely city!

By taking away off peak charges there will be less income for the maintenance of the bridge. Where will this come from? Will our council tax go up to help pay for the bridge. Should the smart card pass residents who use the bridge at peak time have to pay more to make up for the free use off peak, I don't think they should. More people will use the bridge during off peak times which will increase the traffic on the bridge and therefore increase the frequency of repairs needed.

They said the bridge would be free once it had paid for itself. I'm sure it has by now. With the cost of living etc it's crazy. The machines are slow if paying by card. It holds traffic up so make it free.

It costs the people who travel over the bridge to get to work every day enough money as it is! Cost of living has increased and people can't afford the increase. The residents of Southampton pay enough to use the bridge and have done for the last 20 years.

Many years ago we were told the bridge would be free, whilst I understand it has to be maintained, so will never be free! prices should stay the same

Can you please publish the income and expenditure for the bridge in the last 10 years to help people make an informed choice on your proposal.

The bridge needs investment to maintain a safer level of use. If it can discourage HGV use of the bridge then even better.

I don't use it very often so it wouldn't really affect me too much.

The bridge makes enough money to pay for it's own maintenance. I suggest it is a strategic highway now that this stupid council has overpopulated woolston without improving traffic flow.

Residents of Woolston do not have any reasonable alternative other than to use the Itchen Bridge, so it is not fair to increase the amount that we have to pay in order to use it. All the other bridges in the city are free, so it is already very unfair that residents of Woolston have to pay to use the closest bridge to get into the city.

If the charges are being put up to deter extra traffic then that is understandable, but this should not include residents of Woolston, as we do not have a reasonable alternative.

More and more punishment for regular people who drive into the city from the east side. Better off going to Whitely now. Absolute joke. Better to make it free for cardholders and charge more for those from outside the city.

Also, cab drivers who charge still full fare and should pass through at cost, but do not... this is a problem.

Also a mention to motorcyclists who use the cycle lane (ant silly speeds) instead of using the toll booth system (even though it's free for those people) is very dangerous for cyclists who the council seem to love when it suits them!

Getting rid of the off peak charge will do nothing to decrease use of the bridge. This is the only practical option for drivers. The option of having to drive around and get to northern bridge will simply put Southampton on a standstill. I do know people who wait until the off peak to use the bridge and taking away that will only cause them to just join the peak queue.

Terrible decision that's not based on anything other than justifying earning more money for the bridge. Make public transport a priority. Schedule more trains coming through Woolston. Put in a tram line. But putting more costs on cars makes no difference, it will simply just cost us more to travel

This bridge brings in far more revenue than is needed to maintain it

Local residents using a SmartCities Card should not face an increase

Despite council rhetoric that the bridge is costing a good deal of money there have never been properly published accounts of profit/loss for the bridge!

The proposed increase defined as "SMALL," for residents if increasing from 40p to 50p (some plain english required here!!!!) is actually a 20% increase and not a small increase in most peoples consideration.

I think that the residents costs should be kept at 30p at all times and the other fees adjusted

The toll bridge creates more pollution. Traffic tails back across Woolston for people waiting to use the bridge. This move will not help this. Pollution costs more in public health for the government. Traffic should not be waiting causing traffic jams. All those poor children in St Patrick's school!

Prepaid toll should be available for more flow

The charges will be going up at the expense of local citizens. If there has to be an equalisation of the fees, please make this only for customers who don't have a city bridge pass. This way the locals continue to pay the same rate.

It is becoming an increasingly pernicious tax for the working population at a time when costs are already high. There is no justification for this as you have got rid of one of the major costs, which was the humans working in the booths.

Don't agree that HGVs should bear the burden. Cars should pay too.

This bridge has paid for itself already, its rubbish about how much traffic goes across it, the 7th bridge charge has more traffic going over it and its free, your just money grabbers, its paid for itself 30 times over by now.

Seems excessive

Increase the toll for lorries going over bridge. The bridge wasn't built for these lorries. Also when bridge was built we were told the toll would be removed once bridge was paid for. Surely it's paid for now !!!!!!!

I agree with the uplift for HGV's - from the consultation notice, the reason that the toll charge remains is to control the traffic and 'weight' over the bridge - HGV's should be encouraged to use other routes. This will also aid in other local roads being used regularly by HGV traffic.

But I STRONGLY OBJECT to the increase in residents price reduction! This is such a minor perk for local people who occasionally use the bridge in off-peak hours! The ethos of controlling the traffic over the bridge is not being applied here; residents in the adjacent postcodes during off-peak hours will be a minor use in the grand scheme of traffic, but it will result in a large increase for said residents! This is purely being suggested for money making reasons.

How is this truly a suggestion to benefit Southampton residents?!

I do not understand the logic that the toll is there to manage the traffic, and yet you're removing an incentive to use the bridge at quieter times by abolishing the peak rate? From where I live, the bridge is a significant time saving over other routes and I assume you do still want people to keep using it and pay the toll. It feels like this is really about raising more money, The tolls were already increased significantly this year - albeit I understand they had been frozen for a number of years - and removing the peak rate now would mean a roughly 40% increase in the full price of an off-peak crossing in the last 12 months.

Cost of living, that bridge has been paid for over and over again, stop putting the prices up

The toll for the Itchen Bridge has not increased for many years and so has fallen in real terms. Given that it is a critical source of revenue for upkeep of the bridge, it makes sense for it to rise with inflation. Also, a higher toll will hopefully discourage car traffic over the bridge and encourage a modal switch to bus, cycling, or walking where possible, thereby reducing congestion and pollution.

In this tough times people are finding it harder and harder to put food on the table, or a roof over their head. Putting the bridge price up is going to make it harder for families plus it will push more cars to drive to the other bridges, so longer drives, more air pollution

This will only serve to push more traffic on to the already congested Northam Road which has bottlenecks over the railway bridge at Bitterne Station and the bridge near St Mary's stadium.

There are only 2 bridges into Southampton, both cause huge queues the pollution and traffic it causes around schools in particular is awful. By raising prices you are penalising those who work, want to add to the community and society. If I had any other option to get into town for work I would but it's sit in one out of two queues. For me to get the bus to work would take 2 hours due to 3 bus changes so public transport isn't an option!

Why not make it free for Smart City card holders only.

The price has recently gone up and a proposal to go up again is greedy.

It's expensive enough, getting to work, let alone putting up the prices of a bridge that was supposed to be free by now! You will be killing the economy in town by doing this, as less people are willing to go there and work or even shop. And with public transport are not getting cheaper This is just a ridiculous move in an economy where everything is getting put up anyway.

As a Woolston resident, I think any savings made on the upkeep of the Itchen bridge will need to be spent on Northam bridge, which will be the alternative route for all vehicles not wanting to pay the increased tariff. This is also detrimental to the environment, with cars using more fuel to take a roundabout route. I use the bridge mainly to visit an elderly relative in Brockenhurst and my son in the Chapel area of Southampton and to use the shopping facilities in the city. . Public transport is out of the question to visit my aunt in Brockenhurst. I will use the shopping facilities less, as will a lot of the Woolston residents. If the council only use the bridge profits for the upkeep of the bridge & not as a council income I'm sure a drop in the tariff would be forthcoming. Maybe the accounts could be made public, so we can see all the money spent on bridge repairs?

I am an interested resident

The toll for the itchen bridge was meant to have been taken away decades ago. Stop increasing the tolls and start decreasing

I believe the toll for the bridge is already high enough. SCC are encouraging local people to take longer less environmentally friendly routes into the city. I would welcome better preventative suicide measures - that is long overdue!

The toll is over priced now. Just another scheme surrounded by lies by a totally inept head in the sand council.

The bridge was built to ease traffic to northam bridge and other roads , and promised to keep charges to minimum . how much toll does it take per year , a big secret , hundreds of heavy buses uses it daily doing more wear and tear so the council should fund these

Woolston residents should have free access to city centre , same as those in Shirley, portswood etc, discriminated against once again, about time it was brought into the national road maintenance network

Managing traffic is best carried out by discouraging motorists from using Itchen Bridge at peak times - by having a cheaper off peak charge. Forcing motorists to use the Northam Bridge route will lead to more congestion on the Northam Bridge route, more track miles driven, more pollution and more CO2 emissions. This proposal sounds more like a money grab rather than a serious attempt to control traffic.

I think the proposal for large businesses & non resident's is fair but resident's should be allowed to use the bridge for free. Public transport is not reliable, timely or cost effective for most people so resident's are choosing to shop in places like whitley where parking is free & there's no additional cost to travel which will be having a negative impact on Southamptons economy. The cost of living and decisions like this & council tax increases are breaking hard working people, surely the council need to take that into consideration.

When the bridge was first built we were never told that it would be a toll bridge forever, we were led to believe that we just had to pay for the building. Southampton is now just one big traffic jam and it no longer is a nice place to live.

It's unfair residents in so19 will be penalised, and forced to increase pollution by taking longer routes into town

It costs enough to get into Southampton to work and shop as it is.

There is no need to tax drivers further. This bridge was paid for years ago and its just used as a money spinning exercise forcing drivers to take a longer journey and using more fuel.

It's a key route for many people and we don't have the infrastructure in place outside of the itchen bridge. Also for those who live in Woolston/sholing, this would add significant commuting time to journeys.

The price increases seem to be happening more and more frequently. When the bridge was built, people were advised the charge would be scrapped after so many years not increased. How do you justify these constant price increases?

Bad idea. First you have not mentioned how much the increase would be for drivers who have a SmartCities discount, or are you doing away with the discount altogether? If so, that would make it a huge increase.

You would normally expect to pay more at the busiest times, by removing that differential will only make it worse. It will only encourage people to use the Northam Bridge instead, causing it to be an even more polluted city then it already is. It such a bad idea, I think you have done it on purpose just to get a reaction.

When the bridge was first built it was supposed to become a free crossing once the costs of building it had been recouped but now it is just a tax on people wishing to travel from one side of the water to the other. I for one will now go back through Bitterne and across Northam Bridge to avoid paying this.

Work harder to actively reduce fees on the toll to support hard working residents, and concentrate your efforts on community efforts to boost the local economy. This does neither so should be scrapped!

The charges are a lot already to use the bridge. Those that need to use it daily to get to work have to pay a hell of a lot. Putting the charges up yet again will start to put people off working in the city centre. Also it will put people off going into the city centre as much to go shopping, use restaurants or other leisure facilities. Which could cause a huge impact on the cities economy and cause more business to close.

The impact on this will be to either just make money as people will pay the additional fee, or move more traffic in the roads around Bitterne Road West and Northam Bridge. Effectively creating a longer rush hour. The increase in workers returning to work bases means the traffic is rising and congestion returning to pre pandemic levels.

All cars going via Northam Bridge will then link into the reduced road network. Reduced as the council are making it 'more attractive' to use buses etc. It also comes at a time when costs to park in unutilised car parks such as old Northam road are increasing. With increased traffic the bus times from Thornhill and Bitterne will then increase, in spit of the 'improvements' at East Park and Portland Terrace.

Vehicles should be encouraged to use the bridge at all times, rather than use the other residential roads. Off peak charges encourage this. Raising the tariff to £1 at all times for cars, will lead to more cars diverting via bitterne, athelston road.

Potentially increasing pollution and traffic noise in those areas

It's just such a high toll for a relatively small piece of infrastructure. Compare this to other toll bridges in the UK, and relative to size this is ridiculous.

The bridge has taken in more than enough to cover the £5m upcoming improvements over the past few years. There was a £2m surplus (profit!) from the bridge in 2022, and with there having been no major maintenance projects on the bridge since around 2016, there should be more than enough money in the bank to not need to raise the toll to raise more money to cover the new engineering works.

Of course in reality, surplus from previous years was siphoned off to fund other council projects, and motorists of the future shouldn't have to pay for that.

Although I agree to the increase in costs for larger vehicles to help discourage their use of the bridge, I strongly disagree with the increase that local residents will have to pay.

The bridge is key infrastructure to the city and is an important piece in reducing congestion through the rest of the city. It is ludicrous that claims of maintenance are being used to instigate toll charges in this instance when maintenance to the rest of the road network infrastructure is able to be managed by the council without tolls. Any move to change charges should be made in the other direction with the abolition of tolls.

The reasons for my objection are as follows (1) First your claim that the discount for resident hasn't increased in 20 years when in recent years the smart discount has increased from when we used to buy blue and red tokens for 30 and 40 pence to now paying 80p off peak and £1 for peak times. (2) The council has never accounted to the residents across the bridge that use it daily, how much they make a day, monthly and yearly. How that money is used and where? Instead of all this the council should be investing in a reliable bus service that does not service other areas in the city 1/2 hourly and hourly, but want to change road usage in the city centre (portland street). Last year or is it council changed road usage (cycle lanes) in the avenues, which was later reversed at what cost. How about investing that money in project that improve and not increase traffic jams across the city in the disguise of saying you want to improve traffic around the city. How about consulting the people that use the use whether they want a dedicated bus hub or more buses.

Already expensive when you going through this area in a regular bays even as a resident

Absolutely disgusting, please don't try and kid residents it's for the upkeep, it's not, also there are two other bridges that go into town, where is the toll on them, if this goes ahead I will personally ensure that there will be demonstrations

I support the proposal, as long as the current and extra income 100% goes into maintaining the bridge rather than a general SCC Slush Fund.

Please confirm all toll income goes to pay for the bridge?

I support dissuading HGVs, large Vans from using the Bridge because the roads in Woolston are not suitable for them and make it dangerous for cyclists.

I live in Netley Abbey and visit my elderly mother 3-4 times a week and as a retiree myself I struggle to pay to cross the bridge. When the bridge was first opened we were told that it would be a toll bridge until the money to build it had been recovered. That goal was achieved some time ago so I object strongly to you putting the price up and the toll charges should be dropped

SCC is ripping off motorists using the bridge and councillor Keogh and his fellow councillors are killing off support for the labour run council.

We have found that we have abandoned shopping and visiting central Southampton due to the cost, both bridge and parking. We go from Bitterne to Romsey, Winchester, instead. The city needs to be encouraging visitors, not driving them away.

I use the bridge and this will add additional cost travelling across the city performing my duties as a carer.

Traffic is ridiculous as it is with permanent road closures to buses and taxis STILL NO PARK AND RIDE ANYWHERE IN THE CITY????? So behind the times

I still don't understand why us, citizens of Weston and Woolston have to pay a penny to cross this bridge. It should be free for us, as Coben and Northam bridge are free for everybody. All the time there is an excuse to maintain the toll bridge, which is highly unfair for us. We have to expend more petrol going around to cross other bridges for free. Charge whatever you want to anybody else but it should be free for neighbours in the area

It will cost me a fortune as I use the bridge twice a day...to get to and from work.

While this bridge is indeed important, I feel the council is doing everything in its power to make the city as inconvenient to the public as possible.

The focus on the one single bridge and its repair, but the blatant disregard for the state of the roads connecting to the piece of infrastructure, is honestly ridiculous.

As a citizen of the city I wish to receive a full explanation to the question "What do nearly £200 pounds worth of COUNCIL taxes go for?"

The state of roads in Southampton is equivalent to the state of the roads of Bulgaria, yet we pay monthly premiums for the "privilege" of destroying our vehicles on the appalling roads of the city.

If the argument is that the council wants to charge a greater fee in order to maintain the ONE piece of infrastructure sound and well repaired, then what pray tell would be the plan for the whole lot of the rest of this city??

Please consider that your citizens are constantly inconvenienced by the stupendously planned repairs of roads, untimely flood interventions and constant failure of adequate governing.

As a Woolston resident we have no option but to use the Itchen Bridge to take away the subsidy would result in more congestion across Nortam Bridge or drive people to out of town shopping.

Broadly increasing tolls to allow for proper maintenance and to manage traffic flows makes sense. The bridge is fundamentally unsuitable for HGVs given the narrow cycle lines (there is no way for an HGV to give the space recommended in the Highway Code for passing).

However, more important is to find a way to encourage less traffic to use the bridge - tolls are a part of that, but equally important is to provide alternative transport (eg bus services that don't get stuck in the traffic jams).

Given that the bridge is completely clogged at peak times, why is this particular increase entirely focused on off-peak? It would make more sense to increase both peak and off-peak by a smaller amount

It is the only feasible way to get to and from work at the hospital and it feels discriminatory to Southampton East residents. Also feels like it will put people off going into town when it's arguably quicker to get to Whiteley where there is 4 hours free parking. Do we really want to see the city centre even more run down?

Also, I have never seen anyone doing any maintainance on the bridge.

I understand the increase for HGVs, but as I drive an electric vehicle, not only has central government removed the grant towards EVs so has the City Council removed the free access and has hiked parking charges in the city. I thought it was only the conservative party who made stealth taxes; how wrong can one be.

The council have made a mockery of travelling around the city. This adds insult to injury!

Raising the toll charges for HGVs will just impact other areas of the city, causing more gridlock in places like the Northam Bridge and St Denys. Surely we want to encourage all drivers to spread out across the city. Congestion is a major problem as it is, and if HGV drivers are required to go to areas such as Weston and Woolston, they'll likely avoid the Itchen Bridge because an increase in £15 is absurd. The current charges for cars on and off peak are reasonable, surely changes should not be made, unless they're to decrease costs across the board. Especially during a cost of living crisis, even when businesses such as haulers, are being affected!

Although I understand the reasons behind the proposals I do not agree with removing off peak and think the HGV increase is too much. You will be adding to congestion and moving pollution towards housing areas.

For people who have to work in Southampton and live in Netley we do not benefit from the discounted southampton city Council tariff. £16 a month extra doesn't sound like much, but for people struggling in today's circumstances, this proposal is yet another scheme of the council to squeeze more money from the working class. Utterly ridiculous!

The bridge is expensive enough as it is, it's a cost of living crisis and there are no real alternatives to crossing the bridge. Northam and Cobden bridge are a joke to cross with traffic at the moment. If the tolls have to go up, invest in better public transport so people aren't forced to use cars. This city has enough people to warrant a mass transit system connecting with outlying areas such as Hedge End or Eastleigh perhaps even inter-city connections to Portsmouth and Winchester. A war on motorists is not the answer when there are many bigger problems facing Southampton

I usually disagree with the labour council's utter contempt for drivers, but in this case, it is reasonable. 1 pound is not a lot of money these days.

Continuous increase for failure to manage within existing budgets. Need to even traffic flow throughout city instead of increasing traffic through other routes, thereby increasing pollution.

The bridge is only 1 of 2 ways into Southampton. Both roads are extremely congested. Should you put the prices up the only other road would become gridlocked. You must make millions already at £1.10 rush hour. The number of cars that go over at this time must already cover the cost of repair. SCC. Should look at managing their funds in a more better and proactive way

Removing the off-peak class2 charge will not impact the traffic, and the loses would be acceptable.

The charges are already a tax on local residents as Northam isnt always an option. I strongly oppose an increase in charges

Motor traffic should be discouraged from entering the city, while other means of transport that do not place as much stress on the city's infrastructure (public transport, bicycles, etc.) should be encouraged, because they provide a more efficient and sustainable way of moving around.

This is a cash cow for local government. No justification for raising the toll during these tough economic times.

For the love of God when will the council realise we don't drive to work because we're lazy we drive to work because we have to!!! No buses go to industrial estates... why? How do working mothers get their kids to breakfast clubs then get to a bus stop and hope to loving God they turn up in time and they are not late for work! Drive from another city because no trains run! Walk in the summer great, global warming, stink when you get there or soaking wet because there's a storm! Get real we would all love not to be sat in traffic every morning and night but reality is... we have NO CHOICE!! work from home oh no your ruining the economy, go to work oh no your destroying the planet! Councils spending money on passion projects more concerned with looking like they are pro active and wasting money rather than actively helping the situation! I live right next to the bridge, pre covid 1.5 hours to get home from Nursling what should of been a 15 minute drive! Post covid.... no idea lost my job but I know I can get to Portsmouth now in 25 minutes! Money spinning for their made up jobs!

Only just put the prices up and it's already too expensive especially if you have to use it daily

Simple price scheme, hopefully will not make rush hour worse

Has already gone up in the year

The reasons given suggest discouragement of use. If this is actually what that Council is proposing why are they not proposing closure of the bridge? In truth it is an excuse to look to raise charges to fill the funding gap. To this I object.

Perhaps SCC could consider reinstating charges for motorcycles and mopeds. This would raise extra funds and also stop them dangerously using the cycle lane by forcing them through the toll barriers.

It's ridiculous, paid for years ago and now unmanned. Just greed

There is such a thing as off-peak travel on trains, and that is public transport, and there should continue to be a concession cost reduction for using the bridge outside of peak rush hours, and into the evening and overnight. You should also Stop charging all residents who have SmartCities cards. Only charge non-residents, and put the toll up for them for the three tiered times of peak, off peak, out-of-hours overnight. You are already penalising residents that have no option other than to cross the itchen bridge to get to or from work when all other routes are equally congested.

Alternate routes are a longer and more wasteful journey. Charging your residents the same as visitors is unnecessary, same as reducing or removing off-peak discounts.

Because local people have to use this 5 days a week ,twice a day , and we do have to use it because the alternative route of northam bridge and Athelstan rd simply can't cope with the extra traffic as was highlighted when the council made the ridiculous decision to keep it closed until 9.00am recently. The cost soon rises when using everyday.

The fact we pay road tax, fuel tax, VAT on fuel and VAT on car repairs is already enough for using our cars. I struggle to see how the council can charge taking into account the above, let alone punish motorists further by just increasing and increasing costs.

Work harder at cutting down on inefficiencies, waste, unnecessary social care etc. before punishing hard working people further.

We are already discouraged from entering Southampton City by the difficult and expensive car parking. Removing the off peak benefit is another nail in the coffin, to stay away from the City altogether!

The 'new' Itchen Bridge as sold to the citizens of Southampton was to be toll free once the loans provided for its construction were repaid. Honour that promise.

I live in Athelstan Road which is regularly used as a rat run when there are issues on the Itchen Bridge .The proposed increase of the toll on the Itchen Bridge would cause many to look for another route into Southampton, namely using Athelstan Road. This road is in poor condition through the middle flat section and with this additional traffic it would deteriorate further. This will result in a higher level of vehicle exhaust gases not only cars and vans but large lorries which will ignore the clear signage stating they are above the legal weight and use the road to get to Northam Bridge into Southampton. There are many young children and families who use this road to get to the local schools. and the additional traffic could have a detrimental impact on their health.

Why is people in sholing and supporting area having to pay this costs yet again. we live this side of the water and having to pay thwse additional costs

The cost for residents has increased so much already over the years. They should definitely have a cheaper toll option than non residents. By increasing toll for hgvs you will increase the hgv traffic on Bursledon Road and Bitterne Road west which will not be good either.

1. We live near to the itchen Bridge (so14). Avoiding the itchen Bridge due to the toll will add, on average, 15 minutes to our journey. That is 15 minutes of additional emissions - and 15 minutes of additional traffic as we must drive through the city.
2. Southampton has one of 23 toll bridges in the UK. The majority of these, like the Ely Bridge toll, have tolls as they are historic bridges - the tolls go towards restoring and maintaining the bridge. The itchen Bridge is not an old bridge - if tolls are required for its upkeep, why not the Northam bridge? Is there a fundamental difference between the two?
3. I believe public trust in SCC is harmed by this increase. Many residents recall being told the bridge would become free after initial tolls - not only has this not transpired, tolls are now increasing.
4. By removing off peak tolls you are removing any incentive for people to travel into the city in less busy times.
5. Reading your unaudited statement of accounts, as a lecturer in public sector finance, I see no genuine financial reason to raise the toll.
6. Ideologically I feel this is a misstep. I assume that you can see that this move simply makes it harder for those on low income to access the city. Most of these people will be accessing the city for work. Introducing a measure that worsens the disparity between those who can pay and those who cannot does not seem in keeping with a majority labour council. I am thoroughly in favour of reducing the ease of car travel around the city (despite being a driver who lives in the city), but I am not in favour of creating this reduction in a way that only impacts those who cannot afford to pay.

While I agree with the proposal for non-residents, they will result in something approaching a 30% increase in toll costs for residents. That is unacceptable.

This will put people off using the bridge and people will use Northam or Cobden bridges putting more strain on these routes during peak times, which in turn will increase pollution. People living in the Woolston area should not be penalised for using the bridge. SCC gets a considerable revenue from these tolls and getting rid of the lower rate should be abandoned. In addition when I went over the bridge on 10th November at 09:38 I was charged the peak rate, so have SCC already implemented this price change already?

Local residents with toll bridge cards/smartcities cards should not have their price increased.

it is already too expensive and we have stopped using it. I note that Southampton residents get a concession so might look into that option but I would prefer pay as you go.

I work in town and live in Woolston and to be honest I pay way too much to go over the bridge each day even with my card. I think it's unfair to put the prices up again as they only went up about a year ago! Also maybe exempt locals that have to use it from such big charges all the time

We are already paying enough. This is a further tax whereby very little has changed in regard to the maintenance costs associated with the bridge. This is a further barrier for people working in the city and visitors etc it is more harmful than good. Perhaps you should've spent out on a more fit for purpose scheme when building it originally or maybe when making it all digital again making sure that errors were minimal so as not to have to let thousands go when toll cards are wiped with no evidence. Be more efficient and if you wouldn't need the increases we should not be paying for your failings

I agree with the increase in price for HGV's - this will aid in controlling the traffic around the City and local roads, discouraging their use of the Itchen bridge and aiding in CO2 emissions.

But I strongly OBJECT to the increase for local residents at off-peak times! This is a crazy idea, and will put local residents off visiting the main City, shops & restaurants. For myself and many of my friends, we would need to use alternative routes in/out of the City to avoid the higher toll charges, so I personally would not. This will impact the local businesses, and by encouraging local residents to take longer routes around the City there will be an increase in CO2 emissions - what a crazy suggestion!

The increase in toll charges for local people is unfair as they will still be compelled to pay the extra charge (clear profiteering on behalf of the Council) rather than use the Northam route. Encouraging users to use other routes will only increase road miles (more wear and tear on the already badly maintained roads) and pollution, which is not going to help the Council achieve aims under the Clean Air Strategy. The Itchen Bridge should be self-funding regarding repairs and it is unlikely the current charges are a reflection of the damage caused to the bridge by each crossing. Unfortunately there is no transparency as to how much money the bridge makes. Without this transparency it is hard to see why increases in tolls are needed to fund repairs which although they need to happen periodically, are not that frequent. Costs for operation of the bridge have reduced with reduction in staff and automation, not to mention not giving change which has increased takings. Removing the lower concession rate is likely to reduce the use of the Smart Cities Card increasing wait times at the bridge and increasing pollution as cash and bank card transactions take longer. With regard to the point made about concessions not changing in 20 years I would point out that we were told that once the construction costs of the bridge were paid, it would be free. This has never come to pass, it would be interesting to see the balance sheet since the project started. Over half the crossings made are outside peak times due to the size of the communities on the Woolston side of the bridge. These plans are affecting local people (who vote!!) and will cause more congestion, more pollution and longer journey times. They will not help the council achieve its aims unless the aim is to raise more revenue. This scheme and other so-called "improvements" to Southampton roads are misguided to say the least. There should be faster easier cross-city routes to avoid congestion and reduce pollution. The current plans are failing in this aim and failing to meet action plans and policy. As a resident of Woolston and a life-long Sotonian I strongly object to this proposal.

People in Netley, Hamble and Bursledon are yet again being penalised with unfair pricing when it's sometimes more convenient to use the itchen bridge to and from their place of work. Saying they are to use the other 2 bridges is just ridiculous with the amount of traffic as it is.

The bridge doesn't help with either congestion in the city or pollution. Increase charge for residents where the bridge is the shortest way to get into town, will force taking longer routes and produce more gases than quick journey across, most cases in/out of work or school runs.

The peak/off peak system encourages citizens like me to travel at times where the bridge will be quieter. I would like to see data from engineers about whether more stress is placed on the bridge by twice daily slow moving traffic (ie, queue on the bridge) or continuous lower volume traffic, as is currently encouraged by the peak/off peak system.

Equally I am objecting to this as the changes this year to the bridge toll charge and also the smart cities charging mechanism have both been handled poorly and been extremely negatively received. Having a 3rd large change with associated missteps at this point is really aggravating.

In 1977 resident were told it was only until the bridge was paid for 46 years later still paying for the original bridge bill

You should remove the peak discount for everyone else and you can charge them £1 the make ot free off peak

No way

There has been little or no maintenance on the bridge since the installation of the blue lights some years ago. As the Council is in financial trouble this looks like a further money generating scheme

I agree that the HGV charge should increase, however it is not fair to remove the concessionary rate. It is understandable that you are trying to get people to consider whether they should use the bridge or not, but, it is not feasible for individuals like myself who have to use the bridge daily to get to work, or be stuck in traffic for an hour plus every morning, to pay anymore for the bridge. Travelling via Northam Bridge or Bitterne would mean I would be in standstill traffic daily, requiring earlier starts in the morning, potential increase in fuel, which in turn will lead to any increase in pollution, and this will also impact on my mental health as I, alongside many others, are struggling at present financially and mentally. I do not use public transport as I have extreme social anxiety, so adding more traffic time in the morning will increase this. We are ALL struggling financially at the moment too, so adding increased costs to residents is unfair. Increase costs for non-residents and HGV, but protect your residents of Southampton.

I know you need to generate funds to maintain the bridge , but this seems another example how particular the older generation that use out of peak will pay more and living on the east of the city being disadvantaged again , no hospitals. It may also have the impact of more users choosing Northam bridge option increasing congestion.

As Bursledon residents we already cannot apply for the discount card, although still part of Southampton city. Toll fees have already increased recently, so a further increase would be totally unfair. Especially for people living in the close surroundings. The alternative routes are far longer drives with consequent higher carbon footprints. It's a shame to see the council encourages such behaviours against the green culture of saving carbon emissions with shorter journeys.

I use the bridge on a daily basis mostly at off peak times for work. We are in the midst of a cost of living crisis and this means even less money in the pockets of your residents. Also raising the price for HVG'a is only going to get passed on to the consumer too. I think people in Southampton pay enough in council taxes to negate the charge all together.

I agree with the increase in charges for the HGV vehicles.

I cant understand why this route in to Southampton is NOT classed as a Major route for government funding, when you consider the volume of vehicles using it on a daily basis.. as indicated by the vast numbers of queues at various times of day..

Having a Peak and NON - Peak charge, should encourage more people to miss the Peak times and hopefully ease congestion at these times..

It was built in 1977/1978. It has more than paid for itself and very little maintenance has been done over the years. It is just a cash making machine for Southampton City Council.

As a Woolston resident I think it's too expensive already

already too expensive as it is.

The toll bridge has only recently been raised. We live locally and travel over everyday so my daughter can attend her sports club. Can any discount be made available for locals or families?

This is a dreadful idea and should be opposed. The bridge costs were paid off in 2016 and yet still Sotonians are being charged to use this vital piece of infrastructure. It is a shame on our city that we continue to do this. The east side of the river needs to be easier to get to to encourage people to visit, and making it harder and more expensive to get to can only make things worse.

These are difficult times financially and for those that need to use the bridge regularly for employment will suffer the most. Nothing new has been added to the bridge and the revenue made surely must outweigh the yearly cost of maintaining it.

vehicle owners should pay to maintain roads

inflation - needs to go up

I fully support removing toll for cars as they do not cause significant damage to the infrastructure.

If you didn't waste so much money on stupid road schemes then you would have the money for the bridge

This will have a significant impact on emissions, forcing cars to take a longer, less efficient route to avoid the increased tolls and therefore increasing pollution in the city. This goes against Southampton's commitments for a greener city

While often a good way to raise funds, it is not in this case. No longer encouraging drivers to avoid peak times will worsen traffic significantly, something which the council has failed to manage adequately. It will also encourage longer routes, increasing emissions in both this case and in the case of stagnant traffic. This is undoubtedly against public interest, and is not how we should be funding our govt.

This will have a negative effect on the environment, forcing cars to take a much longer route round. And could make traffic worse at peak times, given there's now no incentive to avoid it. Off peak and peak being the same. As well as just being incredibly greedy.

Encouraging more traffic along the Bitterne Rd/Northam Bridge doesn't make sense. This will inevitably cause more traffic queues and misery for those who live that way. Not to mention the polluted air quality from cars sitting in traffic. The Itchen Bridge is used by people who live in Woolston and surrounding areas. It is access to the west side of the city. If the council wish to make changes to the toll, they should be setting it at the off peak tariff and not the peak tariff. Stop penalising the motorist, it's the cruise ships that the council should be targeting.

The cost of everything else is expensive enough! If it is to go ahead the extra revenue needs to be put towards making the top up cards either auto-renewing or having anpr at the booths with auto pay, such an antiquated system at present

It'll cause cars to go a longer route causing more emissions. The toll bridge wasn't also suppose to be permanent

Stop increasing the toll price!!!! You're driving people away from the city and hurting locals, unforgivable in a cost of living crisis. Southampton is a tourist city and you're killing it.

The tolls should be completely removed.

Cost of living is high already. Cardholders should be free and not have to have a higher fee, and charge those comments on to the city for cruises. as there is no park and ride this causes issues with traffic

It is stated that the increase is to cover road repairs (increased traffic). Exactly how much has been spent up to date on road repairs? I think this is a spurious comment!

For the environmental reasons toll bridge should be removed. All these cars queuing in a rush hours and polluting the environment is hard to believe. It also hard to believe that Southampton city council looks after their pocket more than after health of local residents.

As a resident of Netley Abbey, just a couple of miles from the bridge, I already find it annoying that we get no discount on the crossing and it has already leapt up in price from 80p to £1 per crossing at peak times so any further increase has a huge impact on my life. I currently cross at 0515 to get to work, so get the slightly reduced crossing, but if this is also £1 it's going to cost me even more and reduce my spending power. Work at junction 7 of the M27 and the work due at junction 8 make alternative routes unviable, so I'm stuck! Surely local residents, including us in Netley, should get a slight discount?

As it is many years since these increases and maintenance has to be done I don't see with these proposals.

Vehemently object on the grounds of council greed and current cost of living. Information released under the Freedom of Information act reveals that the total income collected from tolls over the last 3 years is in excess of £9.3 million pounds. It also states that initial construction costs were paid off in 2016. Adding the income from that time is likely to add another £12 million to the coffers so over £20 million plus any interest accrued. In that same time the amount of visible maintenance seen on the bridge has been minimal and almost non-existent. If necessary I will seek your maintenance records and costs under the same freedom of information to see exactly how much you have spent. I suspect that what I will discover is that the bridge tolls are a moneyspinner for other council projects. As someone who uses the bridge regularly, I don't see why have to subsidise the rest of the city's inhabitants. Your proposal will have doubled the toll in 5 years!

Although the discounted toll available to residents has not increased in over 20 years, increasing the off-peak time by 10p can be a financial issue for many of the residents we live within the c. For example many time I have to cross that bridge 4 times in day and the cost can add up within a month.

If one of the key reasons for maintaining the toll is to manage the traffic, residents within the Concessionary Zone should not be affected by this increase. One option the Council should consider is to remove the off-peak as proposed but keep the toll at 30p for resident within the Concessionary Zone. For many of us living within the Concessionary Zone, the use of the Northam Bridge can add 15 minutes or more to our journey. This also have an environmental impact as we have to drive further, so the use of Northam Bridge for many is not a real option.

I trust the Council will do the right thing and will not increase the toll for residents in the Concessionary Zone or even better if reduce to a single standard toll of 30p.

I am objecting specifically to the removal of the off-peak period toll for class 2 vehicles. The toll was only recently increased in April 23 and raising the value again in such a short time frame is not acceptable. One of the suggested reasons stated for the increase it to ensure sufficient funding for future maintenance of the crossing. The previous increase was predicted to earn the council an extra £400,000 this year (2023-2024), from which I have seen no investment on maintenance of the bridge with increasing pot holes and poor road quality which need repair - where have the extra funds been going to date? In addition if the funds are for wear and tear on the bridge I do not see why buses, motorbikes and even emergency vehicles (when not on an emergency call) are not required to input for their use of the bridge and why the costs routinely fall to car users. The other reason stated for increase is to manage to traffic, however the presence of the toll (the entrance for which is poorly designed and managed) is actually the cause of traffic backing up into Woolston instead of allowing free flow and movement over the bridge. At the very lease a re-design which widens the road entrance allowing for three clearly defined lanes on each side would be a much better method of traffic flow management than a toll increase.

Labour increased the peak and off peak rate in May 2023 so shouldn't be allowed to remove the off peak rate until at least May 2024.

Local people who have to cards should get discount off the two rates not one rate.

Just because Labour have mis-managed funds does not mean all residents should pay the price of their stupidity!

Local SO19 residents should not lose our discount on the peak and off peak rates.

Labour SCC put the fees up earlier in 2023 which should mean no further changes can take effect until the same period 2024.

I do not understand why Labour SCC hate local residents so much, they rinse every last Penny out of us. Whether it's for Council Tax, Car Parking and now the Toll Bridge.

Labour SCC advise they don't dislike motorists, yet all sanctions are on the motorists.

I object to these changes, I need to drive my vehicle which is electric, (which used to be free on the bridge. Labour SCC removed that incentive for people to go green). I drive due to being disabled.

Why should disabled drivers be penalised???

The itchen bridge toll is designed to be a way of managing traffic across the bridge and for paying maintenance - during an off peak period, there is no reason to be charging the same as a on peak period.

Traffic volumes are lower which results in less strain on the bridge and the tolls themselves. There is less cost therefore as a result of the off peak period. This is nothing but a commercial money grab by raising the tolls

The bridge was supposed to be paid off years ago, this is not fair. It is especially unfair to local residents who have no choice but to travel over the bridge.

Bc you're rich enough already you robbing scrubbers

As I live in itchen ward and work

In totton I rely on the bridge everyday to commute on average I pay around £20 a month using my smart cities concession card which may not seem a lot but with all costs rising I am finding my budget stretched my company has been unable to offer any pay rise for 3 yrs due to the economic situation I urge the council to reconsider

I would support this if you had the honesty to rename it the Woolston Tax

Heavier vehicles do more damage, and repairing the bridge is expensive.

I am objecting because this is the 2nd time in under 12 months that the council have increased the toll charges. When the Itchen bridge was built the council said that the tolls would cease when the bridge building costs had been recouped from tolls. When are you going to keep your promise? it has certainly been paid for. The 2 bridges over the Severn also said that tolls would be removed once the new build cost has been recouped, which they have now, & the tolls have been removed. You say the Itchen bridge is not a strategic route, but I would disagree there, it is a very important route for people in Woolston/Weston/Sholing into the city & the docks. I am sure national government would help with the maintenance of the bridge just as they have on the 2 Severn Bridges

The council talk about needing to be "carbon Neutral"-by doing away with the toll booths this would help that immensely. Traffic wouldn't have to queue to pay & cross. When a booth breaks down-which happens often -the traffic quickly builds up along Portsmouth rd all the way to Butts rd. This causes a lot of fumes as cars stop/start/crawl along the rd, buses also get wat behind their schedule/timetable. If the bridge was opened up with no tolls vehicles would be able to cross easily & create very little emissions

To go to church on a Sunday I am

Now already having to pay £4 parking. Now

You are adding more. This is crazy. I live right near the bridge. A compromise would be for residents to have the off peak still. I don't think it will deter people generally. However it means I am less likely to shop in Southampton but go to Hedge End or Whitely.

Road infrastructure does cost a lot

True cost of motoring

Your explanation makes sense.

The buses are always using the bridge and are causing a lot of impact to the bridges structural integrity but they are fine to skip the toll. The bridge already costs enough for the public and you now wish to increase this unfairly. As you stated more people use the bridge during off peak times we see that the bridge is not used as a cut through for work but as a way of going to town for shopping. If you make changes this will impact the amount of people going into the city and reduce the customers to our businesses. You are already causing a lot of issues with the introduction of 20mph everywhere and the closing of roads to make them for buses and taxis only. The itchen bridge toll was meant to be only for funding it but then you changed it to cover repair costs but from what the public see there has been no repairs so where does this money actually go?

I'm a local resident and use the bridge on my twice weekly commute as it is still the fastest route into town despite the recent increase in queue times.

Once again this council is raising costs for people that cannot afford it. Another attack on drivers

I don't believe there should be any charge at all. The state of the entrance towards the toll gates says it all about the amount of money spend on maintaining. The slow traffic during the peak times in the mornings and evenings every single day causes WORKING people to waste their time and money. It goes without saying what environmental effect the fumes have when the cars are stuck in the traffic from town quay all the way towards the bridge. When talking about environmental issues in the city no one ever mentions this!

The bridge has been paid for many times over and should be subsidised

I would like to put it to the Council that anyone who lives in the Concessionary Zone (and has a Smart Card) should get a reduced toll for ANY vehicle. Not just business vehicles registered in the Concessionary Zone. It does not seem fair that a person (with a Smart Card) driving a car who lives in say Millbrook should be able to cross the Itchen Bridge for the same cost as someone living in Woolston who has a Smart Card. I would like to see the Concessionary charge for anyone driving any vehicle registered in the Concessionary Zone to be cheaper. Even making a car 30p for those in the Concessionary Zone rather than 40p for other Smart Card users would acknowledge that we HAVE to use the Bridge to get into town or hospital. Thank you.

The Itchen bridge is the most direct route for many residents on the Woolston side of the Itchen to go into the city centre of Southampton, and increasing the cost with force people to drive around, pushing congestion into other areas of Bitterne and into town. These longer journeys will also produce more emissions, further reducing air quality in our city. In addition, increasing costs for people during a cost of living crisis will make it more expensive to get to work or into the city centre and may discourage people going into town. Perhaps a Park and Ride on this side of town, into the city centre would help reduce congestion and traffic over the bridge without costing residents more.

Tolls are an important 'stick' to ensure we aren't stuck in traffic chaos - though it would be good if you had a bit more 'carrot' - protected cycle ways, better bus facilities etc

The bridge makes enough money with the current set up of charging. Charges needed to be removed or even reduced after it was paid off.

I disagree with the removal of the discount for residents within the SO19 postcode. We live minutes away from the bridge and therefore use this for commuting. To travel to work within rush hour, it is impossible for me to get to the other bridges Cobden/Northern due to the amount of local traffic. I would have to leave up to an hour earlier than usual which is not an option due to school runs.

I feel there should continue to be a discounted rate for local residents.

Southampton is a city that is plagued by congestion . Access rules that discriminate people . These types of Rules prevent disabled people from visiting our city