

# Costs force rethink of bridge plan

DOUBTS have been cast over plans for a much-needed foot bridge in Pittville Park.

Council bosses say tenders submitted by more than 30 companies have revealed “unexpectedly high costs”.

The bridge was set to link Pittville lake’s north and south banks, but the council said a “rethink” of how it could be created at a lower cost was now underway.

Critics say too much money has already been lost in the design and consultation process.

*David Prince, County Councillor for Oakley, Prestbury and Pittville (PAB), says “The design of this bridge has been tarted up so many times, All we want is a crossing, point, not something that looks like it has come down in a spaceship.”*

*He said the news would be a “kick in the teeth’ for the Friends of Pittville, who had campaigned tirelessly for improvements.*

He added: “The more that is spent on designers and consultants, the smaller the funding pot gets.” National and local contractors competed to win the tender. Made from vandal proof materials, the bridge would incorporate designs of trees, swans and dogs.

Adam Reynolds, parks development manager at the council, said “Although we are disappointed that costs have come back so high, we are still determined to do all we can to welcome the bridge back into the Park”

Councillor Roger Whyborn, cabinet member for sustainability, said design improvements had pushed costs up and the council would look to reduce them without compromising design.

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