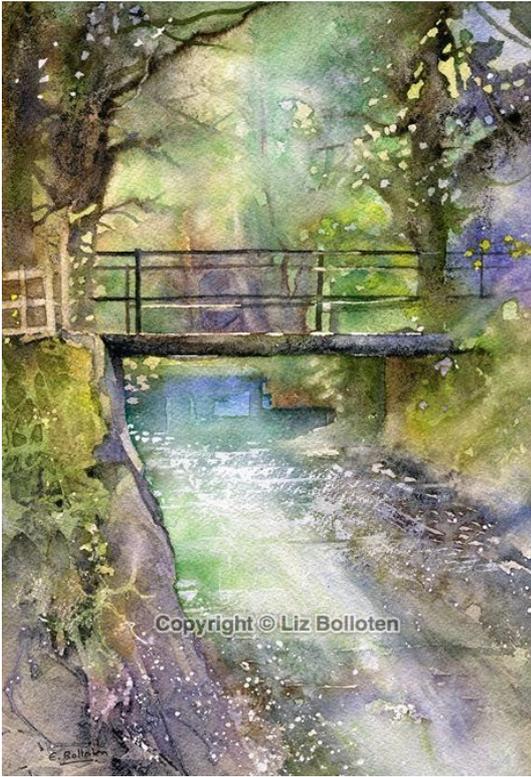


UPDATE ON THE BRIDGE.



County Councillor Austin Roberts called for a meeting with the Community Council on Wed Feb 17th. He invited the county officials who will be overseeing the building of our new Hiraethlyn bridge.

They showed us photographs of the devastation wrought by the Boxing Day storm, and the original slate bridge that had been washed away. It is now beached forlornly on one side of the Bryn Hir path.

We were also shown sketches and plans of the proposed new bridge.

This will be in oak, with a 6 metre span across the river and 1.2m wide.

There will be plenty of room for wheelchair and buggy access, and the span almost doubles the width of the old bridge, hopefully leading to less flood water backing up behind.

Certain trees will have to be felled and later in the year, when river levels have fallen, the setts will be reinstated.

Cllr Gwyn Williams reminded us that in 1937 the then Denbighshire County Council ordered the setts to be placed in what was then a much used highway.

This was a 'Ffordd Dwr' a 'Water Road', whereby an existing watercourse was paved and maintained to act as a highway

for farm vehicles, cars, carts and motor bikes.

This usage only ceased in the 1970s, but the original surface can still be seen beneath the Hiraethlyn Bridge, and is a part of the village heritage.

Various ideas have been mooted as to what to do with the slate that for many years was the bridge here.

A possible suggestion is to use it as a seat overlooking the river and the contractors will look into how this can be done.

The project is now out to tender and we hope to hear definitely next week whether we will have received funding. If all goes ahead the work will be under way by the end of March.

Thanks to Cllr. Austin Roberts and the County team for such swift action on the village's behalf.

(The painting at the head of the report is by Liz Bolloten, a local artist. Liz is donating the original, called "The bridge that was : Eglwysbach", to be raffled later in the year in aid of village projects).