

TUCKTON TOLL MAY BE ABOLISHED

FOR PEDESTRIANS AND CYCLISTS

C.T. May 6, 1939

The Southbourne Ratepayers' Association appear to have won in their long protest against the irksome Tuckton Bridge toll. At the Bournemouth Town Council meeting the matter was considered, and the Borough Engineer was instructed to communicate with the Hants County Council and the Ministry of Transport, with a view to abolishing the toll on pedestrians and cyclists. If this application succeeds both Christchurch and Southbourne residents will benefit.

The matter came up for discussion after a letter from the Southbourne Ratepayers' Association had been read, requesting the abolition of tolls for pedestrians and pedal cyclists.

Replying to a question raised by Councillor R. W. Scott, Alderman Sir Charles Cartwright suggested that the matter be held over until after a conference had been held with the Hants County Council.

It would, he suggested, be the wisest thing to consider devoting the whole of the surplus from Tuckton Bridge to redeeming the outstanding loan at the earliest possible date. The sum which totalled £4,66 could be redeemed in three years.

Referring to the letter from the Southbourne ratepayers, Sir Charles said he did not think the committee had any great objection to the scheme, because it would not cost a lot of money, but he would prefer, personally, that the matter should be left over until the next meeting.

If the toll bridge was to be made free to some and not to others, it would, he said, involve an investigation of the legal position.

Also, he reminded the Council, that the bridge was subject to rates, paying £413 to the Christchurch Corporation and £313 to the Bournemouth Corporation. If they freed the bridge of toll, it was uncertain whether or not they would have to continue paying the rates to Christchurch.

He expressed a wish that the Southbourne ratepayers would leave the matter to the Council to deal with.

The Council, he added, were sympathetic and wished to free the bridge as soon as possible.

In reply to a question as to how the reserve of £4,000 would be applied, Sir Charles said that he could not answer that question at a moment's notice.

Councillor J. Richards said that during the past ten years, a sum of £17,000 surplus from the bridge had been devoted to the relief of rates.

Sir Charles pointed out in reply that in the early days traffic was much lighter than now and the question of building a new bridge was not so important then.

"We are going to try to free the bridge at the earliest possible moment," he assured them.

Councillor S. A. Thomson suggested that special tickets for pedestrians might be issued at a nominal sum of 5s. per year, and Sir Charles said that the idea would be born in mind.

The matter was left to be dealt with at next month's Council meeting.