

Hammersmith Bridge SOS — Campaign Timeline

A record of key milestones, campaigns and achievements by the HBSOS steering group.

2019

Bridge closed to all motor traffic – Buses, cars, Blue Lights, motorcycles
April 2019 — micro-fractures found in cast-iron pedestals

2020

Full closure — pedestrians & cyclists banned
13 August 2020 — cracks worsened in heatwave; bridge shut to all users

WhatsApp campaign group set up

17 August 2020 — local residents begin organising via WhatsApp to respond to the full closure

First south side rally

August 2020 — first rally held on the south side of Hammersmith Bridge to protest the full closure and demand urgent action

First steering group formed

27 August 2020 — formal campaign steering group established including representatives from Barnes Community Association (BCA)

Second south side rally

September 2020 — second rally on the south side calling for government intervention and a temporary crossing solution

Government Task Force launched

September 2020 — chaired by Transport Minister Baroness Vere; HBSOS engages directly with taskforce

Campaigning for towpath safety

Autumn 2020 — HBSOS highlights impact on schoolchildren and workers; campaigns for lighting and security guards on towpath for those using alternative routes

Regular liaison with councils and MPs

2020 onwards — ongoing engagement with London Borough of Richmond, London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham, and local MPs to press for urgent solutions

Fosters & Partners / COWI truss plan adopted

November 2020 — temporary road bridge feasibility study begins

'All I Want for Christmas' campaign

December 2020 — children of SW London wrote letters to the Prime Minister asking for the bridge to be reopened; letters delivered by Santa to No. 10 Downing Street

North side rally

4 December 2020 — rally held on the north side of the bridge to maintain pressure and raise public awareness

2021

'Hammer the Message' campaign

February 2021 — QR-coded signs across Barnes, Hammersmith & Putney; 1,600+ emails sent to politicians

Valentine's Day light-up protest

February 2021 — bridge lit up as 'UK's biggest Valentine's card' addressed to Boris Johnson and Sadiq Khan, projecting: 'Broken hearts. Broken promises. Broken Lives. Broken Bridge.'

Boat Race Day protest

April 2021 — protest held on Boat Race Day in partnership with London Rowing Clubs, drawing attention to the closure's impact on river and community life

Bridge reopens to pedestrians & cyclists ✓

17 July 2021 — after 337 days fully closed; key HBSOS campaign win

Hammersmith Bridge Song

July 2021 — campaign song recorded with Susie Webb, celebrating the community's fight to reopen the bridge

North/South community survey published

Commissioned jointly with Barnes Community Association

International media coverage

2020–2022 comms campaign generated worldwide coverage highlighting the disastrous impact on schoolchildren, commuters and local businesses. Outlets included: New York Times, ITV, BBC, Dutch press, French press, Dubai TV, US wire services, and TV in New Zealand

2022

Government funding package announced

March 2022 — DfT commits to one-third of stabilisation costs, TfL one-third and LBHF one-third (funded by a toll)

Press release: 3 years of no traffic

April 2022 — calls for shuttle minibus & emergency vehicle access

2023-
2025

Political Lobbying and National media coverage

Political lobbying to engage Task Force, Sec. of State for Transport, MPs, and Councils to progress HBSOS objectives. Supporting Comms campaign generated UK coverage.

2025

Main carriageway reopens to cyclists & pedestrians ✓

April 2025 — new dedicated lanes open after years of sustained pressure

2026

National and local media coverage