

## **Seathwaite Bridge**

During monitoring of Seathwaite Bridge on 11<sup>th</sup> September significant cracking was noted, it has been necessary to install props to the underside of the bridge to allow it to remain open to vehicles up to 13 tonnes. The County Council understand the vital link that this bridge provides to the local community and will continue to monitor it to ensure that it remains safe to use until such time as it can be permanently strengthened next year. It is essential that no vehicles in excess of 13t use the bridge (except emergency vehicles) which are likely to result in further damage and the need to close the bridge permanently. The County Council should be made aware of any instances where overloading occurs so that necessary action can be taken and the bridge can remain open for the benefit of everyone. Temporary bunding is to be placed to protect the props from water pressure and impact from floating debris, however if the bund is overtopped it may be necessary to temporarily close the bridge to safeguard the public. A full inspection would be undertaken once safe to do so to allow it to be re-opened to traffic. The County Council are speaking to local feed and fuel companies to ask for their help in maintaining supplies to residents and businesses whilst observing the weight restriction.