

## Highways Committee

15 January 2010

### Waldrige Road – Chester Moor Link Road Proposed Installation of a Bus Shelter adjacent to Aberwick Drive



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### Report of Ian Thompson, Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic Development

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#### 1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To allow Members to consider objections to the proposed installation of a bus shelter on the Waldrige Road – Chester Moor link road, adjacent to Aberwick Drive.
- 1.2 This report requests that Members endorse the proposal for the setting aside of the objections and allow the bus shelter to be installed.

#### 2.0 Proposal

- 2.1 To erect a bus shelter at the bus stop on the Waldrige Road – Chester Moor link road, adjacent to Aberwick Drive as indicated on the attached plan.

#### 3.0 Background

- 3.1 In 2006 the former Chester-le-Street District Council received a number of requests from Waldrige Parish Council and residents for the provision of bus shelters on the Waldrige – Chester Moor link road. Shelters had been provided at the south of the link road through the County Council's contract with Adshel but this had left four locations at the north end of the link road without shelters.
- 3.2 At this time, the District Council carried out an extensive survey of 474 households within 150 metres of the four locations but this consultation had only been to seek public opinion on the proposal to erect two shelters at the locations marked A and B on the attached plan. This plan also indicates the extent of the consultation.
- 3.3 The returns from this survey are detailed in Appendix 1 and found that 21 residents (12%) objected to the proposal with a number of others requesting additional shelters at locations C and D on the attached plan.

- 3.4 These objections were considered in a report to the District Council's Executive Committee on 4 June 2007 where it was agreed that the objections be set aside and the two shelters at locations A and B be installed without seating, in order to deter any anti social behaviour.
- 3.5 Since the introduction of these two bus shelters, there have been further requests for bus shelters at the locations C and D.
- 3.6 A bus shelter has since been provided at location C.
- 3.7 While some consultees initially feared the shelters would encourage the congregation of youths and anti social behaviour, there have been no repercussions in relation to anti social behaviour, vandalism or litter at any of the shelters at locations A, B or C.
- 3.8 Funding for all four of the proposed shelters is to be provided by the Parish Council
- 3.9 These bus stops are served by 2 buses per hour throughout the day enabling passengers to travel as far as Chester-le-Street, Washington, South Shields and Durham.

**4.0 Consultation**

- 4.1 Having already carried out the extensive consultation detailed above, only those households in Aberwick Drive were consulted on this additional proposal.
- 4.2 This resulted in only one objector who objected on a number of points.

**5.0 Objections and Responses**

|          | <b>Objection</b>  | <b>Response</b>  |
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| <b>1</b> | The objector suggests that the placement of the shelter will have a direct negative impact on their private life, the value of their property and environmental health. | It is acknowledged that bus shelters can attract youths. The proposed site has street lighting which allows good visibility for intending passengers. Potential vandalism should not be a deterrent to providing services for the public and, if it occurs, can be eradicated with regular maintenance of the shelter. In order to deter the congregation of youths, a seat would not be provided in the shelter. Other shelters in the immediate vicinity have not been subject to any such problems. |

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|---|--|--|
| 2 | The proposal for the shelter is a disproportionate response to requests from users who will use the shelter for a very limited portion of the day.                         | There have been a number of requests for a bus shelter at this location through the consultation process, the Parish Council and members of the public in general. It is a policy of the County Council to encourage the use of public transport and the provision of a shelter contributes to this. |
| 3 | The shelter will be a permanent feature to their home attracting additional litter, a congregation point for youths, prompting anti social behaviour and criminal damage.  | See response 1 above   |
| 4 | The bus bay is already a collection point for vehicles congregating, playing loud music and this attraction will increase with the provision of such a shelter.            | See response 1 above.  |
| 5 | The proximity of the proposed shelter to the objector's home will cause noise and disturbance which will have a direct impact on their environment and privacy             | See response 1 above   |
| 6 | The objector suggests that the basis of the request for the shelter relates to waiting school children who dress for fashion rather than the weather                       | The provision of a bus shelter is to enhance the waiting environment and the public transport experience irrespective of who they are or what they are wearing.  |
| 7 | The prevention of crime and antisocial behaviour is an objective element of the community safety agenda and the pursuit of such a provision is contrary to that objective. | See response 2 above.  |
| 8 | Given that most users are school children and walk from the estate to the bus stop in question, would an alternative be to have a bus shelter within the estate            | The requests have come from a cross section of the general public who use this bus stop and the services that serve it. These services are commercially operated and there is no intention by the bus companies to divert these services.  |

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| 9 | What alternatives have been considered? | This is a request for a bus shelter at an established bus stop. There is no suggestion that the bus stop is inappropriately located in relation to the bus services that observe it and the passengers who use it. Therefore, an alternative would only be in the form of an additional bus stop and shelter at a different location. As a consequence of this, an alternative has not been sought. |
|---|---|---|

- 5.1 In addition to these responses, the objector has been assured that the bus shelter will be monitored on a regular basis for litter and anti social behaviour. This monitoring will be carried out after hours as well as during the day.
- 5.2 If there is found to be a problem at the bus shelter, appropriate action will be taken by the County Council to eradicate the problem.
- 5.3 However, the objector has been reassured that, if these problems persist and cannot be eliminated, the County Council will remove the bus shelter.
- 5.4 Since then, the Police have been requested to conduct a check of their systems for any complaints about youth nuisance in the area of the bus stop near Aberwick Drive.
- 5.5 Records for the last 2 years have been checked and no complaints in relation to youth nuisance near that bus stop or any other bus stop along that road have been filed.
- 5.6 They also point out “that all of the other stops on that road already have shelters so, bus shelter or not, it doesn’t seem to have any effect on youth nuisance along that road.”

**6.0 Local Member Consultation**

- 6.1 The Local Members, Councillors Bainbridge and Davidson, have both been consulted and appraised of the matter and fully support the proposal and recommendations.

**7.0 Recommendations and Reasons**

- 7.1 It is RECOMMENDED that the Committee endorse the proposal to set aside the objections and proceed with the installation of the bus shelter.

**Background Papers**

Correspondence on Office File  
Copies of correspondence have been placed in the Members’ Resource Centre.

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## **APPENDIX 1**

### **Analysis of Consultation**

Consultation conducted March 2007 on locations A and B on the attached plan.

474 properties were consulted on locations A and B

172 returned the completed questionnaire (36%)

151 households had no objections to bus shelters at locations A and B (88%)

78 households (52%) use the bus stops at locations A and B

73 households (48%) do not use the bus stops at locations A and B

21 households (12%) objected to the proposed installation of shelters at locations A and B.

2 households objected because they wanted the shelters located nearer to their property.

3 objected on the basis that the bus stops had limited usage.

16 households objected on the basis that the shelters would attract anti social behaviour.

28 households requested that bus shelters be installed at locations c and D.

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## **Appendix 2: Implications**

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### **Finance**

The scheme is to be funded by Waldrige Parish Council.

### **Staffing**

None

### **Accommodation**

None

### **Crime and Disorder**

While bus shelters can attract anti social behaviour, there is no evidence of this in the immediate vicinity and measures, as detailed in the report, will be implemented to mitigate such behaviour, should it arise.

### **Sustainability**

The provision of this bus shelter will encourage the use of public transport and a more sustainable transport system.

### **Human Rights**

None

### **Localities and Rurality**

As detailed in the report.

### **Young People**

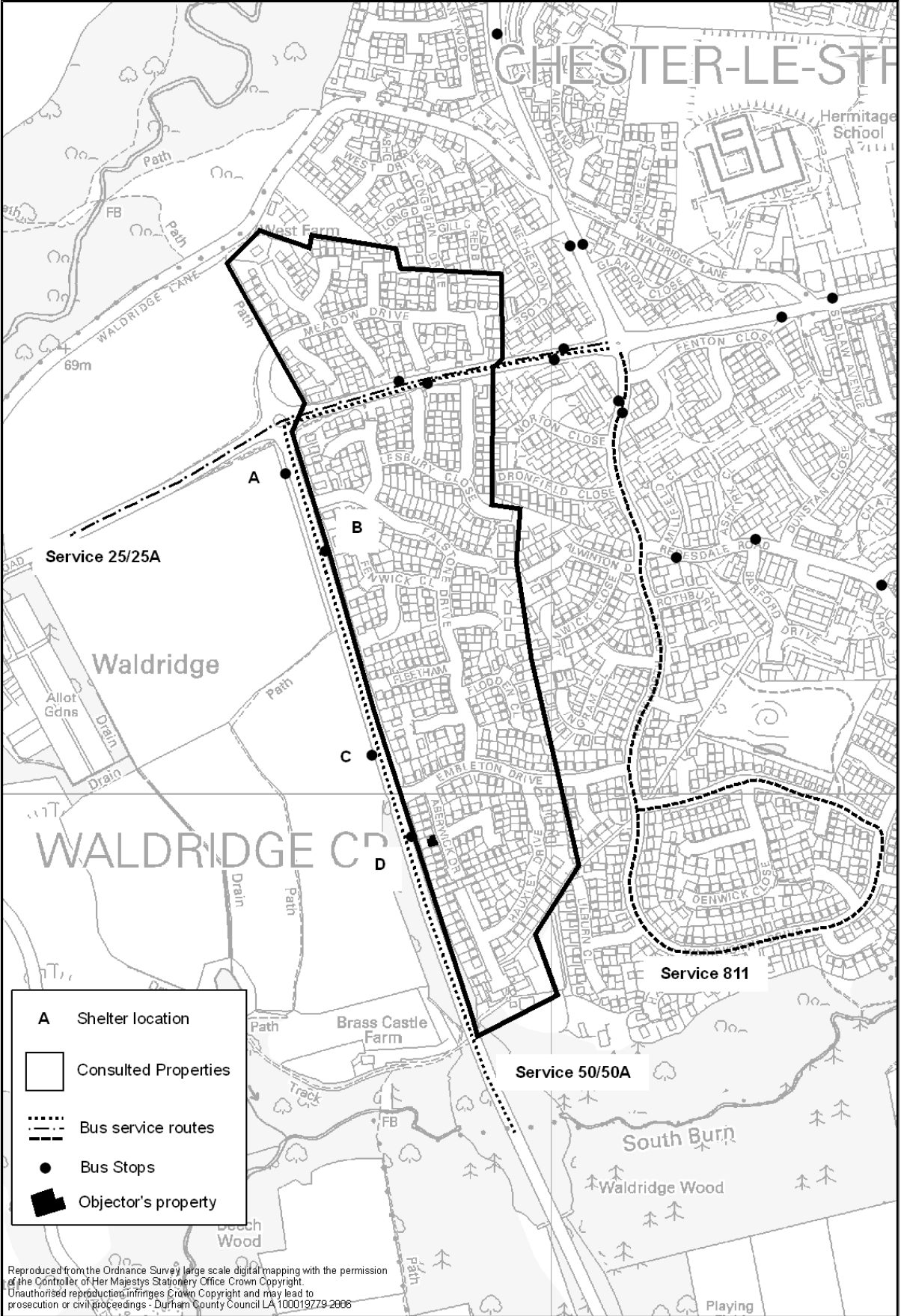
The shelter will be used by young people travelling to school as well as in their social life.

### **Consultation**

As detailed in the report.

### **Health**

None



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