

**Highways Committee**

**9 February 2011**

**Bus Shelter – 65 Milbank Terrace, Station Town, Wingate**

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**Report of Ian Thompson, Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic Development  
Councillor Neil Foster, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Economic Development**

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**1. Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1. To consider objections received in relation to the proposed erection of a bus shelter at 64/65 Milbank Terrace, Station Town, Wingate.
- 1.2.1 Having considered the objections, the Committee is recommended to endorse the proposal.

**2. Background**

- 2.1. The local member has received a request from the Parish Council for a bus shelter to be provided at the bus stop at Milbank Terrace, Station Town, Wingate.
- 2.2. There are currently six bus services utilising this bus stop, the main ones approximating to over three buses an hour during Monday to Saturday daytime. These services travel to a number of destinations including Easington, Peterlee, Sedgefield, Hartlepool and Middlesbrough.
- 2.3. The proposed shelter will be part funded by the Parish Council, local member, Alan Cox, and Durham County Council. Responsibility for the maintenance of the bus shelter after installation will rest with Durham County Council.

**3. Proposal**

- 3.1. To erect a fully glazed cantilever bus shelter (without a seat) at the bus stop on the boundary of numbers 64 and 65 Milbank Terrace, Station Town, Wingate.

**4. Consultation**

- 4.1. The two properties in the immediate vicinity of the bus stop were consulted on the proposal (see attached plan) together with the Police and the Parish Council.
- 4.2. Local members, Councillors Alan Cox and Robert Crute, have also been consulted and appraised of the matter and are fully supportive of the proposal.

- 4.3. The Police support the proposal but, to minimise any potential anti-social behaviour, have requested that the shelter be fully glazed and that a seat is not provided.
- 4.4. There was only one response from a resident who objected on a number of points relating to experience of antisocial behaviour. Details of the objections are documented below.

## **5. Objections and Responses**

### **5.1. *Objection 1:***

The objector states that he had the following issues when there was a brick bus shelter at this location in the past:

- Their garden being used as a toilet
- Vast amounts of rubbish thrown over their garden wall
- Congregation of children using this as a shelter from rain and as a place to “hang out”, generating additional noise
- Vandalism to the shelter and their property
- Abuse from public when challenged

The objector feels that these issues will arise again if a new shelter is installed and will be worse.

### **5.2. *Response:***

*The County Council has no record of there being a bus shelter at this location in the past, although there is a bus shelter on the opposite side of the road at Newholme Estate which was, in the past, of brick construction. However, while it is acknowledged that bus shelters can attract anti-social behaviour, the proposal to install a fully glazed cantilevered bus shelter is specifically intended to deter such incidents.*

*In order to deter the congregation of youths, a seat will not be provided in the shelter.*

*To tackle any problems of litter, a litter bin can be provided.*

*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. An inspection regime is in place for all council owned shelters, allowing timely repairs to be carried out.*

*Where damage to the shelter is reported, repairs will be carried out in a timely manner.*

### **5.3. *Objection 2:***

Similar anti-social behaviour is witnessed by the objector at the shelter at Newholme Estate, Station Town, Wingate.

**5.4. Response:**

*While the shelter at Newholme Estate is of a similar design to that proposed at 64/65 Milbank Terrace, it is in good repair and shows very few signs of vandalism caused by antisocial behaviour. While it is acknowledged that bus shelters can attract anti-social behaviour, the proposal to install a fully glazed cantilevered bus shelter is specifically intended to deter such incidents. This design differs greatly from the previous enclosed brick shelter at Newholme Estate which can sometimes be linked to anti-social behaviour, as brick shelters can offer a hiding place for miscreants.*

*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. An inspection regime is in place for all council owned shelters, allowing timely repairs to be carried out.*

*Where damage to the shelter is reported, repairs will be carried out in a timely manner.*

**5.5. Objection 3:**

The objector details that there has not been a shelter at this location for many years and cannot see why one is being proposed to be built now.

**5.6. Response:**

*The Parish Council is requesting that a shelter be provided at this location and the request is supported by local members.*

*The provision of a shelter enhances the waiting environment for passengers, encouraging the use of public transport.*

**5.7. Objection 4:**

The objector feels that the provision of a bus shelter would de-value their property.

**5.8. Response:**

*Claims of devaluation of property are unsubstantiated. The provision of a bus shelter will be seen as a valuable asset to bus users.*

**6. Recommendation**

- 6.1. It is recommended that the Committee endorses the proposal to set aside the objections and proceed with the installation of the bus shelter.

**7. Background Papers**

- 7.1. Office files

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**Contact: Andy Leadbeater Tel: 0191 372 5377**

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**Appendix 1: Implications**

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**Finance**

The scheme is to be funded from the Local Transport Plan – Bus Stop Infrastructure budget, the Parish Council and Local Member, Alan Cox.

**Staffing**

None.

**Risk**

Decision is such that a full risk assessment is not required. Any risk is detailed within the report.

**Equality and Diversity**

The shelter will improve the waiting environment for all intending passengers.

**Accommodation**

None.

**Crime and Disorder**

While bus shelters can attract anti social behaviour, the design of the proposed shelter is specified to discourage such behaviour.

**Human Rights**

None.

**Consultation**

As detailed in the report.

**Procurement**

The shelter will be provided under an existing contract for bus shelter provision secured under the County Council's procurement procedure.

**Disability Discrimination Act**

The design of the shelter is such that it will conform to DDA requirements where applicable.

**Legal Implications**

None.