

Highways Committee

9 February 2015

Bus Shelter – Opposite 50 Manor Road, Medomsley



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

1.0 Purpose

1.1 To consider objections received in relation to the proposed erection of a bus shelter opposite 50 Manor Road, Medomsley

2.0 Background

2.1 The local members have received requests from residents of Medomsley for a bus shelter to be provided at the bus stop opposite 50 Manor Road.

2.2 There is one main bus service utilising this bus stop. The service runs 1 bus per hour during Monday to Sunday daytime, from Consett to Newcastle.

2.3 Other locations to site a bus stop and shelter have been investigated but unfortunately no safe, suitable alternative could be found.

3.0 Proposals

3.1 To erect a fully glazed bus shelter at the bus stop opposite 50 Manor Road, Medomsley.

4.0 Consultation

4.1 The 8 properties directly affected by the proposals were consulted. These included 7 houses opposite the bus stop (44, 46, 48, 50, 52, 54 & 56 Manor Road), as well as the adjacent School, Bishop Ian Ramsey C of E Primary School.

4.2 Local members, Councillors Alan Shield and Watts Stelling, have also been consulted and apprised of the matter.

4.3 Durham County Council's Conservation Team were consulted and are in favour of the proposed bus shelter design.

4.4 Out of the 8 properties consulted, 4 raised objections. One of the objectors also prepared a letter for other residents in the area to sign, of which we

received 5 signed copies. However, only 1 of these signed copies came from an occupier of a property that would be directly affected by the proposals.

The other 4 signed copies were from residents of Hunters Close, a small cul-de-sac behind Manor Road.

In total 6 issues were raised from the 9 letters we have received, which are addressed as follows.

5.0 Objections and responses

5.1 Issue 1: The installation of a bus shelter at this location would increase anti-social behaviour

Response: It is acknowledged that bus shelters can sometimes attract youths. However, 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.

Should an issue arise at this location, Durham County Council has an internal anti-social behaviour team whose duty it is to tackle these problems.

5.2 Issue 2: The bus shelter design doesn't fit in with the disposition of the village (conservation area)

Response: The proposed bus shelter design has been discussed with and agreed on with our Durham County Council Conservation Team. This style of shelter has also been used within other conservation areas throughout the county.

5.3 Issue 3: The number of bus passengers that use this stop does not justify the cost of a new shelter

Response: We have received 3 individual, direct requests from local residents for the introduction of a new bus shelter at this stop and it is believed to be supported by other residents in the vicinity. The installation of a new bus shelter can also help attract more people to use public transport. This was reinforced by the bus service provider, Go North East, who has stated that the improvement of bus stop infrastructure can attract new passengers and in turn allow them to improve the bus service. It is a policy of the County Council to encourage the use of public transport and the provision of a shelter contributes to this.

5.4 Issue 4: The objector feels the provision of a bus shelter will devalue their house

Response: Claims of devaluation of a property are unsubstantiated. The provision of a bus shelter will be seen as an asset for a bus user.

5.5 Issue 5: The objector feels the provision of a bus shelter will be an intrusion of their privacy

Response: The bus stop is already used on a daily basis by passengers and therefore the introduction of a bus shelter should not reduce privacy any more than current usage. The introduction of a glazed screen between intending passengers and the properties opposite could even help increase privacy.

5.6 Issue 6: Additional street furniture will make the area more congested and dangerous for people crossing the road due to lessened vision

Response: Durham County Council would recommend that anyone crossing Manor Road in this vicinity uses the designated crossing points available. However, should members of the public choose to cross the carriageway adjacent to the bus stop then the provision of our proposed bus shelter should not reduce vision due to its glazed design.

6.0 Local member consultation

6.1 Local members, Councillors Alan Shield and Watts Stelling, have also been consulted and apprised of the matter.

7.0 Recommendation

7.1 It is RECOMMENDED that the Committee endorse the proposal having considered the objections and instruct the director to proceed with the installation of the bus shelter.

Background Papers

Correspondence and documentation on Traffic Office File.

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance – DCC Capital Bus Stop Infrastructure budget

Staffing – Carried out by Strategic Traffic

Risk – Not Applicable

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty – The bus shelter will improve the waiting environment for all intending passengers

Accommodation - None

Crime and Disorder – The design of the proposed bus shelter is specified to discourage such behaviour

Human Rights - No impact on human rights

Consultation – As detailed in the report

Procurement – The shelter will be provided under an existing contract for bus shelter provision secured under Durham County Council's procurement procedure

Disability Issues – The design of the shelter is as such that it will conform to DDA requirements where applicable

Legal Implications – None