

Highways Committee

2 March 2016

**Bus Shelters – Spa Road,
Gainford**



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

**Councillor Neil Foster, Portfolio Holder, Regeneration and
Economic Development**

1.0 Purpose

1.1 To consider objections received in relation to the proposed erection of 2no bus shelters on Spa Road, Gainford.

2.0 Background

2.1 The Parish Council has received requests from residents of Gainford for 2no bus shelters to be provided at the bus stops located at the west end of the village. Durham County Council has the power to install an omnibus shelter on highway under Section 4 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953.

2.2 There are 2 main bus services utilising the bus stops. The X75 runs 1 bus per hour from 7am to 10pm, Monday to Saturday, with a reduced service on a Sunday. The X76 runs 1 bus per hour from 8am to 6pm, Monday to Saturday, with a reduced service on a Sunday. Both services run from Barnard Castle to Darlington.

2.3 The provision of the 2no proposed bus shelters would be fully funded by Gainford Parish Council. Ownership and future maintenance will be the responsibility of Durham County Council.

3.0 Proposals

3.1 To erect a fully glazed bus shelter at the bus stop adjacent to 7 High Row, Gainford (west bound).

3.2 To erect a fully glazed bus shelter at the bus stop adjacent to 2 Spa Road, Gainford (east bound).

4.0 Consultation

- 4.1 The 11 properties directly affected by the proposals were consulted. These included 7 houses adjacent to the west bound bus stop (1-7 High Row), and 4 properties adjacent to the east bound bus stop (1-3 Spa Road and 1 North Terrace).
- 4.2 Local members, Councillors James Rowlandson and George Richardson, 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 11 properties consulted, 2 raised objections and 1 replied in support of the proposals. We did not receive any response from the other 8 properties.

In total 6 issues were raised from the 7 letters we have received, which are addressed as follows.

5.0 Objections and responses

5.1 Issue 1: The installation of a bus shelter would cause an unsightly obstruction

Response: The proposed shelters have a fully glazed design, allowing them to blend into the surrounding environment and minimise any obstruction of view.

5.2 Issue 2: The installation of a bus shelter at this location would increase anti-social behaviour

Response: Whilst it is acknowledged that bus shelters can sometimes attract youths, this is not always a guarantee of antisocial behaviour. It is an aim of the County Council to encourage the use of public transport and the provision of new bus shelters contributes to this. Potential anti-social behaviour should not be a deterrent to providing improved services for the public.

The fully glazed design of the shelter can help prevent youths from congregating there as people can see what they are doing. To further deter the congregation of youths, a seat would not be provided in the shelter.

In addition to this, Durham County Council has an internal anti-social behaviour team whose duty it is to tackle these problems around the county.

5.3 Issue 3: The bus shelter design and materials do not fit in with the disposition of the village (conservation area)

Response: The proposed bus shelter design has been discussed with and agreed on by DCC's Conservation Team. This style of shelter has also been used within other conservation areas throughout the county.

5.4 Issue 4: The new position of the bus stop is dangerous and impacts on visibility when leaving driveway

Response: Although the proposed bus shelter adjacent to 7 High Row will be installed slightly west of the existing bus stop boarding area, we will not be changing the bus stopping location. There is clear visibility of approximately 50m past the bus shelter when exiting the driveway. Also, as the bus shelter will be fully glazed the resident would be able to see through it. We have discussed this issue with our Development Control team and Durham Police's Traffic Safety Officer, who were both happy with our proposals.

5.5 Issue 5: The bus shelters are not necessary as there is already one at the other end of the village

Response: The request for new bus shelters that the Parish Council received highlights the need for bus shelters at these stops. The closest bus stop with a shelter is over 400m away which is a substantial distance for people to walk, especially for those with mobility issues. It is an aim of the County Council to encourage the use of public transport and the provision of new bus shelters contribute to this.

5.6 Issue 6: A stone shelter in the village was removed some years ago due to antisocial behaviour

Response: The proposed shelter is a more suitable design that will help to deter the congregation of youths. It is an aim of the County Council to encourage the use of public transport and the provision of new bus shelters contributes to this. Potential anti-social behaviour should not be a deterrent to providing improved services for the public.

In addition to this, Durham County Council has an internal anti-social behaviour team whose duty it is to tackle these problems around the county.

6.0 Local member consultation

6.1 Local members, Councillors George Richardson and James Rowlandson, 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 shelters.

Background Papers

Correspondence and documentation on Traffic Office File.

Contact: Kieron Moralee Tel: 03000 263 746

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance – None

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

Appendix 2: Location & Consultation Plan

