

## **STRONGER COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE**

---

**Date:** Monday, 20 March 2023

**Title:** Madley Park/Woodstock Road – Bus Shelters

**Contact Officer:** Deputy Town Clerk - Adam Clapton

---

### **Background**

At the meeting of Witney Traffic Advisory Committee on 10 January 2023, a member of the public raised concerns regarding the bus shelters at Woodstock Road which serve residents of Madley Park. The alignment, lack of a crossing, lack of hardstanding/overgrown vegetation and mud at the shelter were raised.

### **Current Situation**

Both shelters are the responsibility of the Town Council and current pictures are attached as Appendix 1.

The first, on the southbound side towards Witney was installed in 2006. The alignment would be what was considered appropriate at the time of installation and the shelter is structurally sound.

The second, on the northbound side towards North Leigh was installed in 2018 at the request of the then County Councillor for Witney North & East. Funding was sourced at Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) which paid for the hardstanding, the shelter and installation on the County Council maintained verge. The Town Council agreed to maintain the shelter but the reason why the shelter was installed in its current alignment is not known; it was installed by a reputable bus shelter supplier, and it may be due to its proximity to the road and safety.

The bus shelters receive a basic clean, including graffiti and sticker removal on a periodic basis, typically 4-6 times a year. Nothing can be done by our team to improve the condition of the hardstanding as this is an engineered issue caused by the drain and drop kerb location. Any action to clean the area would only see short term benefits and it would soon return to a poor state.

To help aid with the appearance of the bus stops the Town Council could push its maintenance out to the hedges and surround grass by around 1 – 2 meters as part of its ground's maintenance specification. Providing the County Council give an agreement to this.

### **Environmental impact**

Having declared a Climate Change Emergency at its Council meeting on 26 June 2019 Councillors should have due regard to the environmental impact of any decisions they make with regard to its facilities and services it operates.

Trimming around the hardstanding/shelters would damage a small area of natural biodiversity.

## **Risk**

In decision making Councillors should give consideration to any risks to the Council and any action it can take to limit or negate its liability.

There is a financial risk should the Council wish to relocate either shelter as damage could be caused to structurally sound bus shelters resulting in their replacement.

These bus stops aren't located close to any area the Town Council maintains regularly, so grass cutting in line with the current specification would be hard to achieve. Realistically the area would only be cut 4-6 times a year when the bus stops are cleaned.

## **Financial implications**

- Costs for regular trimming and cleaning would be met from the Grounds Maintenance budget.
- The replacement of either shelter is not currently planned or budgeted for. Funds remaining in 4035/402 (Bus Shelter Maintenance) would not extend to a new shelter.

## **Recommendations**

Members are invited to note the report and consider the following:

1. Whether to agree to extend out the maintenance of the bus stops to 1 – 2 meters including hedges and verges.