

STRONGER COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Date: Monday, 3 June 2024

Title: Woodgreen Bus Shelter Request

Contact Officer: Project Officer

Background

The Project Officer was tasked to assess the feasibility of installing a bus shelter at the bus stop by Woodgreen Park (Holy Trinity Church) after receiving a request from a local resident.



Current Situation

Upon inspecting the bus stop officers identified a broken timetable holder and a missing timetable inside. These broken/missing items were the responsibility of Stagecoach, and they were reported to our contact at Stagecoach and "Fix my Street" website. They are due to be fixed shortly.

With regards to the Bus Shelter, officers reached out to the local parish transport rep for information and data to better understand the route and numbers of people using the stop. The following information was provided:

- Bus service is known as S7 and runs daily from 5am to 1am from Witney to Oxford
- The frequency of buses fluctuates between 30mins and 1hr throughout the day.
- On average 1 person boards each time the bus stops
- The route has extended hours, which is funded by Estelle Manor in North Leigh, to support their staff transportation to and from work, especially during unsociable hours.

Based on information that Estelle Manor contribute to the upkeep of the S7 route, officers spoke to their operations manager to explore funding options from Estelle Manor. Whilst Estelle Manor was positive about the idea of the shelter, they were currently reviewing the continuance of their contract with Stagecoach. Therefore, they declined the offer to support the install of new shelter. However, they would keep it on their record as there could be a need for one later in year, if they decide to operate their own minibus service and there were enough employees requiring collection from that area.

Officers also considered utilising S106 funding but discovered that the bus shelter did not meet the criteria or location requirements to apply for this funding.

As the cost of a new bus shelter is approximately £8,500, Witney Town Council would not recommend covering the full cost of installing a shelter at Woodgreen as the cost does not justify the usage at this time. Officers will maintain contact with Estelle Manor, and should an opportunity arise for them to fully or partially fund a shelter in the future we will pick this back up and will keep in touch with OCC re: bus shelter funding.

Environmental impact

Having declared a Climate Change Emergency at its Council meeting on 26 June 2019 – with this in mind Councillors should have due regard to the environmental impact of any decisions they make with regard to its facilities and services it operates. There are no current environmental concerns.

Risk

In decision making Councillors should consider any risks to the Council and any action it can take to limit or negate its liability. There is no current risk associated at this stage of the project.

Financial implications

There are currently no financial implications for this project.

Recommendations

Members are invited to note the report and consider the Project Officers recommendation regarding installation of a bus shelter at Woodgreen Bus Stop.