

STRONGER COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Date: Monday, 19 July 2021
Title: Bus Stop - Tower Hill
Contact Officer: Project Officer - Nicky Cayley

Background

Oxfordshire County Council is holding funding of £10, 000 S106 money from the developers of the Burford Road site, Kingfisher Meadows. The Town Council has designated this money for the southbound stop (going into the town) on Tower Hill as this is the primary bus route serving these residents via the 233. The stop also accommodates the 853 service.

Whilst the County Council hold the funding, the Town Council resolved to procure the work, to include a bus shelter, hardstanding and cycle racks.

Current Situation

The stop has regular, but not heavy use at the moment, Councillors should consider the future usage of the stop which is liable to increase.

Residents have not yet been formally consulted as the intention is to present the Council's choice of shelter to them for comments. Cllrs Smith and Collins have confirmed they are happy to consult the residents in the immediate vicinity of the shelter in person. Some thought will be needed as to how residents in the wider area should be consulted.

The residents in the vicinity of the proposed shelter have expressed some concerns to councillors, these being ASB, graffiti and the overall appearance of the shelter, including a wish for more trees and green areas.

The quotes attached are all for shelters that have a solid back – preventing bus stop users from sitting and looking into the houses behind, which residents may find concerning and all the shelters have clear side panels to enable residents leaving the houses behind the shelter to have a good view of the road. There is also an option for the Council to choose a “green” shelter, with a seedum roof, similar to that being installed at the Burwell shops bus stop. This would not only fit in with the Council's declaration of a climate emergency but would be more aesthetically pleasing for residents. It is the most expensive option, but it is within budget.

Concerns were also expressed about litter. A litter bin could be requested from West Oxfordshire District Council and retro fitted – this would be at a cost to the Council. As the Ground Contract is also under consideration, collection of the waste could be added into any future contract.

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. The Council is offered the opportunity to choose a green roof shelter, which has a positive benefit to the environment.

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. The primary risk associated with the installation of a bus shelter would be residents' opinions. Careful consideration would be required in consultation.

Financial implications

Quotations for shelters are attached to this report. The Town Council will supply cycle racks at a cost of £98.97 – the quotations for shelters include the installation of these.

There will also be an associated cost for the retro installation of a litter/dog waste bin at approximately £420 and ongoing costs of £7.25 per collection (WODC costs).

Recommendations

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

1. Which of the shelters the Council would like installed at the Tower Hill stop;
2. How consultation should be carried out in the wider vicinity of the shelter (Cllrs Smith and Collins visiting those houses immediately behind the site in person);
3. Whether a litter bin should be installed.