

Central Bedfordshire Council

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT MEETING

18 DECEMBER 2018

Petitions – Bus Shelter, Luton Road, Caddington

Report of: Paul Mason, Assistant Director, Highways
(Paul.Mason@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk)

Responsible Officer(s): Paul Salmon, Team Leader, Traffic Management, Highways
(Paul.Salmon@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk)

Purpose of this report

To report on the two petitions' regarding the disused Bus Shelter on Luton Road, Caddington. One to save the shelter and one to have it removed.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Traffic Management Meeting is asked to:

1. **Note the Petition**
2. **Move forward with the majority petition and action the removal of the shelter.**

Overview and Scrutiny Comments/Recommendations

1. This is not to be presented at Overview and Scrutiny.

Background Information

2. The bus shelter has been abandoned and disused for a considerable amount of time and has been a topic of conversation between residents, the parish council and Central Bedfordshire Council. A bus service has not run from this shelter for over 2 years at the very least, which can be seen from the timeline. It is understood that there has been discussions and lack of use of this shelter since 2005 when Arriva withdrew their service on the grounds of commercial viability.

3. Below is an abridged time line of events as well as correspondence which has gone back and forth between all parties, prior to these petitions being received.
- a. 23 May 2016 - Caddington Parish Council request Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) Highways and Transport to consider whether they have any objections or comments on the removal of the redundant bus shelter
 - b. 13 June 2016 – Caddington Parish Council full council meeting minutes record that they agreed to keep the bus shelter based on the comment that it may come back into use
 - c. Feb 2017 – following the original request from the Parish Council and trying to tie the removal of the shelter in with planned traffic calming in the area, however concern was raised over the possibility of asbestos being present in the structure
 - d. June 2017 – the structure was deemed clear of asbestos
 - e. 30 Nov 2017 – as CBC contractor no longer on-site CBC wrote to Parish Council asking them to remove the redundant bus shelter from the public highway
 - f. 30 Nov 2017 – Clerk requested reasons for removal
 - g. 11 Nov 2017 – Reasons stated in an email as the shelter is redundant and impacts the visibility splay at the junction
 - h. 11 Dec 2017 – At the meeting discussions had regarding the redundant bus shelter, it is noted that there are mixed opinions on whether to retain or remove the shelter. The discussion also goes on to discuss repurposing the structure. The Parish Council write a letter to CBC asking for clarity on the reasons for removal, state that the shelter is used by school children and may be of use as a bus shelter for a future service
 - i. 8 Jan 2018 – clarification sought from School Transport Team as to whether they use this stop and planning as to whether a change of use application is required
 - j. 16 Jan 2018 – confirmation that the School Transport Team do not use this as a pick-up point
 - k. Jan 2018 – confirmation that no change of use application required
 - l. 31 Jan 2018 – residents of The Lodge express their concern at the length of time it is taking to resolve the matter
 - m. 15 Mar 2018 – Public Transport Team confirm that no public transport uses the stop and not aware of any current plans to do so
 - n. 13 April 2018 – CBC letter to Parish Council asking for a decision on whether they want us to remove the shelter or to take it down and re-site it at an appropriate location in the village
 - o. 14 May 2018 – Parish Council email saying will be discussed at the next Parish Council meeting
 - p. 14 May 2018 – Parish Council discuss the redundant bus shelter and reiterate that it is a Parish Council asset and sits on the Village Green, they vote to retain the bus shelter and seek second opinion on the visibility splay
 - q. 22 May 2018 – Parish Council email stating that they are getting a second opinion on the visibility splay

- r. 1 June 2018 – CBC write to confirm that the shelter is on the Public Highway and seek a decision on how it is removed
- s. 1 June 2018 – Parish Council respond seeking clarity on the status of the land that the shelter sits on
- t. 8 June 2018 – CBC write to confirm that the land is public highway and request a decision from the Parish Council
- u. 12 June 2018 – FOI received regarding the status of the land
- v. 19 July 2018 – FOI response sent to Parish Council and offer of a meeting to discuss any clarifications required
- w. 10 Aug 2018 – Meeting requested but holiday period may delay it, meeting deferred due to 2 petitions launched one to save and one to remove the redundant bus shelter
- x. 9 Oct 2018 – petitions taken to Executive Meeting and referred to a future Traffic management Meeting for a decision (demolish 192 signatures; save 151 signatures)

4. The two petitions oppose each other, one requests that the shelter be demolished, containing a total of 192 signatures. The second petition requests that the shelter be saved and used for other purposes, this contains a total of 151 signatures.

Options for consideration

5. The petitions need to be considered on their own merit and there are alternative options presented to use the shelter for an information Hub for the village, a possible shelter in the future if a commercially viable service was operational again, therefore retaining the shelter.
6. That the shelter be removed as it is effectively a hazard on the highway and has been noted to hinder site lines for traffic and pedestrians and deemed a safety hazard.
7. It should be noted that the location of the shelter, if kept and retained as an information Hub for the village, the location is not ideal for those to use the shelter and may suffer from vandalism and unlawful removal of any materials posted in the shelter.

Reason/s for decision

8. This item was heard at Central Bedfordshire Council Executive committee on 9th October and the recommendation from that meeting was for the item to be heard at a Traffic Management Meeting and a final decision to be made, due to the highway and transport nature of the item.

Corporate Implications

9. None.

Legal Implications

10. None.

Financial and Risk Implications

11. Financial and budgetary implications to be confirmed.

Equalities Implications

12. None.

Conclusion and next Steps

13. It is recommended by Officers to move forward with the removal of the bus shelter and a decision to be made by Cllr Dalgarno as to the next steps, if decided as to who and how the shelter is removed. Possibly allowing the structure to be reused elsewhere by the parish council and stored or demolished and disposed of. This decision must have a deadline between CBC and Caddington Parish Council of Monday 14th January 2019.

Appendix A: Petitions & Signatures

Appendix B: Letter

Report Author:

Paul Salmon – Team Leader, Traffic Management, Highways

Paul.Salmon@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Mr Andrew Whiting
Clerk to Caddington Parish Council

Your ref:

Our ref:

Date: 13 April 2018

Dear Mr Whiting

Re: Disused Bus Shelter Caddington

Further to my letter dated 27th Nov 2017 and your response dated 14th Dec 2017

Firstly, I do apologise that it has taken so long to get back to you but I have consulted further internally regarding the use of this bus shelter.

My investigations have shown that the power has been removed from this structure some years ago. Furthermore, both public transport and school transport have confirmed that they do not use this bus stop any longer and have no plans to in the future.

As you will be aware, the bus stop is built within the vision splay which is formed by the boundary wall of the property at the back of the footway at the junction with Chaul End Road and Luton Road. The adjacent property is now in more regular use and is having issues accessing and egressing their property.

I also have to consider our own guidelines in regard to the shelter and Well Managed Highway Infrastructure, which is the code of practice that we have adopted for highways in CBC, contains Recommendation 36 to Minimise Clutter, this tells us to “remove redundant items” within the public highway

I am aware that the parish council have requested that the shelter be retained for use as an information point and potential future reuse as a bus shelter. Highways do not support the change of use to an information point as this location is inappropriate for that purpose. However, there is the possibility that the shelter could be carefully dismantled and re-erected in a different location more suitable to that purpose. Having said this, it should be noted that any new location would need to be assessed by CBC Highways for suitability, and any costs incurred in the removal and re-siting would need to be borne by the Parish Council.

Should you decide to just have the shelter demolished and removed then then CBC Highways will meet the cost of this.

I have previously stated that for some years the bus shelter has not been used and this remains the case. Having considered all the information gathered it remains my view that, unless you wish to consider the option to re-site then the shelter should be removed.

I assume that you would need to discuss the possibility of re-siting at your next Council meeting, and would therefore ask you to let me have your decision after that meeting has taken place.

I understand that this is not the outcome that that you desired and will be disappointing. However I believe that it is the correct decision.

Yours sincerely



Paul Mason

Head of |Highways

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CC Cllr Richard Stay

Cllr Kevin Collins