

# Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council

Full Council 11/07/2024

## Bus Shelters

**Agenda item 24-044 4.0: To consider the information received and agree the response to West Berkshire Council regarding the potential offer for bus shelters for the proposed sites and/or alternative sites.**

### BACKGROUND

The following information has been received from West Berkshire Council's (WBC) Transport Team:

*Dear Stratfield Mortimer Parish Clerk,*

*I am contacting you to let you know the good news that West Berkshire Council has funding available to provide new bus shelters in your parish at no cost to yourselves. The funding is available from our Bus Services Improvement Plan's financial award from the Department for Transport.*

*In addition to providing and installing the bus shelters, we would cover their maintenance and cleaning costs for an initial period to be confirmed. We would appoint a suitable contractor to fulfil these functions.*

*We have identified the following sites in the parish of Stratfield Mortimer that we believe would be suitable for a bus shelter.*

| <b>Bus Stops Name</b>    | <b>Direction</b>     | <b>Shelter Type / Style</b>  |
|--------------------------|----------------------|--|
| <i>College Piece</i>     | <i>Reading bound</i> | <i>2 or 3 bay Cantilever style shelter with half or full end panels.</i> |
| <i>Stephen's Road</i>    | <i>Reading bound</i> | <i>2 bay Cantilever style shelter with half end / full end panels.</i>   |
| <i>St John's Church*</i> | <i>Reading bound</i> | <i>2 or 3 bay Cantilever style shelter with half or full end panels.</i> |

*\*WBC have confirmed this is the bus stop opposite Badgers Croft.*

*Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council would own the bus shelters from the outset so they would need to be included in the Parish's asset register for ownership / insurance*

*purposes. West Berkshire Council would be happy to pay for any additional insurance costs that resulted from this for a period to be agreed.*

*When the initial cleaning and maintenance contract has expired, the Parish Council would take over responsibility for the cleaning & maintenance of the shelters. If for any reason this was not done, and the shelters became unsafe, our current thoughts are that we would possibly look to remove them.*

*Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council could choose the design of shelters it wanted from examples the Council has approved.*

*We are still working on the finer details of this project. However, in the meantime we would be pleased if you would respond to this email by Friday 26th of July, letting us know if Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council would or may want to take up this offer (and if so for which sites / suggested alternative sites which may include stops used by community transport services) or if this is something you would not be interested in.*

*It may be the case that we receive too many requests for new / replacement shelters that our budget can deliver. If this is the case, we would look to prioritise the provision of shelters at for example the busier used bus / community transport stops. We would keep on record any requests for shelters we were unable to provide and hope that in the future we would be in a financial position to fulfil some or all these.*

*Please get back to me if you have any questions. I would be happy to attend any site visits if that would be helpful.*

*I attach some information on bus shelter plan and the various types of bus shelters that may be suitable. See document 24-044 4.1 Bus Shelter Plan and Types.*

## **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

The information has been forwarded to members of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (NPSG) for comment, a response was received from a member of the NPSG as follows:

*The new NP, insofar as the policies have been developed, focuses on the need for sustainability and being responsive to climate change, and as such any improvements to public transport and the provision of sustainable travel choices aligns with that. Our Vision includes reference to supporting improved public transport and whilst we have not yet explicitly stated it, this is intended to relate to both public transport service provision (i.e. more buses please!) and the related infrastructure (e.g. Bus stop shelters).*

*So, in principle, the new NP would support the provision of bus shelters in the village.*

*The community engagement undertaken to date for the NP did not highlight this aspect specifically as most of the comments on highways and transport issues were concerned*

*with matters such pedestrian safety, traffic speed and school and station parking so, strictly speaking, outside of the NP land use focus.*

*I appreciate the following is outside of our remit as the NPSG, but purely as an individual resident and regular bus service user, I would query the value of having a bus shelter on Stephen's Road, as this is the penultimate stop on the Mortimer bound service before West End Road, it is not on the 'Reading bound' service. I have never seen anyone waiting there, only alighting. Equally the proposal for College Piece seems odd as that too is on the Mortimer bound service, unless what is meant is the stop on the south side of Victoria Road between Stephen's Firs and Stephen's Road, which is regularly used (including by myself!) but its location is rather dark given the overhanging trees/shrubbery etc, so at night, if Reading bound I tend to use the previous stop near the Victoria Arms.*

*Happy to have this qualified by TB and others on the SG.*

*Clerk 01/07/2024*