

Meeting	Parks and Open Spaces Committee
Date	5 November 2024
Report Title	Torun Way Bus Shelter
Agenda Reference	12
Author	Councillor V Manro

Recommendation:

1. To approve the allocation of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds for the installation of a bus shelter on Torun Way, as requested by students from Bradon Forest School and supported by the school administration.
2. To allocate up to £6,099.00 from the CIL budget for the bus shelter installation and £1,000.00 from the biodiversity budget for ongoing maintenance and environmental enhancements, including the expansion of the local bee corridor initiative.

Background - Student Request and School Support

Councillor V Manro recently received a compelling petition from young residents who use the bus stop on Torun Way to travel to Bradon Forest School. The students have articulated a strong case for a bus shelter, emphasising the need for protection from inclement weather. This request has garnered support from the Bradon Forest School administration, who recognise the potential benefits to their students' well-being and punctuality.

The proposed bus shelter would offer several advantages to students:

- Improved comfort: Protection from rain, wind, and sun, enhancing the overall travel experience.
- Health benefits: Reduced exposure to harsh weather conditions, potentially decreasing illness-related absences.
- Enhanced safety: A designated waiting area, improving visibility and security for students.
- Increased punctuality: A comfortable waiting environment may encourage students to arrive at the stop earlier, reducing the likelihood of missing the bus.

Funding and Costs

The Council has previously allocated CIL funds for bus shelter projects and play area maintenance. Currently, £6,099.00 is available in EMR CIL 319 for this purpose. The estimated cost for a new bus shelter is £3,898.20, which includes:

- Full coverage design
- Powder colour coating
- Fully galvanised roof
- No seating or lighting (to be considered as potential future enhancements)



To mitigate the risk of vandalism and ensure longevity, the shelter could be fitted with Perspex sheets to cover mesh holes, providing additional protection for students and the structure itself.

Biodiversity Enhancement and Bee Corridor Expansion

This project presents an exciting opportunity to incorporate biodiversity elements, aligning with the Council's commitment to environmental stewardship. The proposed enhancements would not only benefit local ecosystems but also provide educational opportunities for students.

Options include:

- Installing a green roof with wildflowers on the bus shelter
- Planting wildflowers in boundary planters adjacent to the shelter
- Expanding the existing bee corridor initiative
- A budget of £1,000.00 is available for biodiversity projects. The feasibility of a green roof would require assessment of weight-bearing capacity and maintenance requirements.

Expanded Bee Corridor Biodiversity Plan

The bus shelter project offers an ideal opportunity to extend the local bee corridor initiative. This expansion would involve:

- Planting native wildflower species known to attract pollinators
- Installing informational signage to educate students and the public about local biodiversity
- Collaborating with Bradon Forest School to involve students in planting and maintenance activities
- Implementing a monitoring program to track the impact on local pollinator populations

This initiative would not only enhance the local ecosystem but also provide valuable hands-on learning experiences for students, fostering environmental awareness and community engagement.

Planning Considerations

The installation of the new bus shelter must comply with planning regulations, ensuring adequate footpath space for pedestrians, including those with pushchairs or wheelchairs. This consideration is crucial to maintain accessibility for all community members, including students with mobility needs.

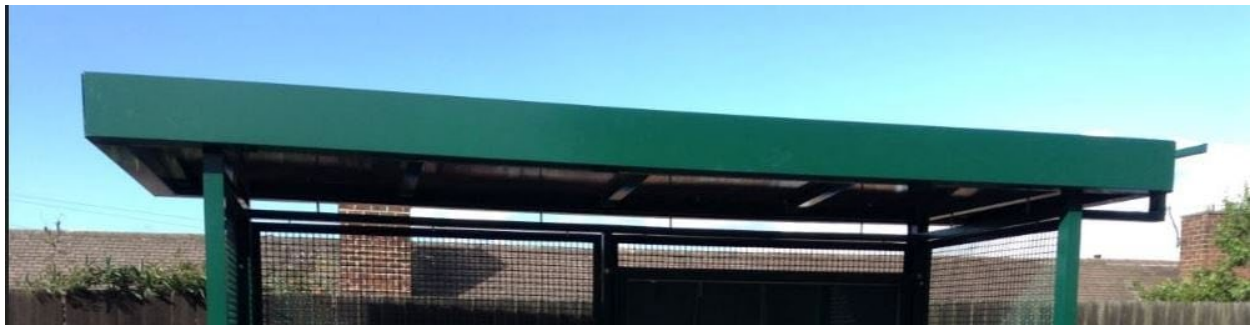
Next Steps

1. Conduct a detailed site assessment on Torun Way for the proposed bus shelter location.
2. Evaluate the feasibility of incorporating biodiversity elements, with a focus on expanding the bee corridor initiative.
3. Consult with the planning department regarding necessary permissions and accessibility requirements.
4. If approved, proceed with procurement and installation of the bus shelter, ensuring timely completion to benefit students as soon as possible.
5. Develop a long-term maintenance and monitoring plan for both the shelter and associated biodiversity elements, potentially involving student participation.



By implementing this expanded plan, the Council can address the immediate needs of students while also contributing to long-term environmental goals and educational opportunities in the community.

Photos and location map



<https://new.newcastle.gov.uk/news/2023/bee-friendly-bus-shelter-helps-newcastle-go-green>



<https://sempergreen-international.com/au/blog/why-should-you-incorporate-a-green-roof-on-a-bus-stop-or-tram-shelter/>

Council has explored bee friendly bus shelters within the last five years but decided to trial the wildflower sites first. These locations have been successful.

