



OAKWOOD AVENUE BUS SHELTER

Below is an email from a concerned resident with reference to alleged anti-social behaviour and other issues concerning the Town Council bus shelter in Oakwood Avenue and a request for its removal.

Sent: 30 September 2022 11:19

To: Mark Jeffries <mark.jeffries@newmiltontowncouncil.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: Bus Shelter - Oakwood Avenue - Opposite Marston Road

Dear Mark

Further to our recent telephone conversation regarding the bus shelter in Oakwood Avenue opposite Marston Road, I would like to reiterate the points we spoke about.

1. The shelter is used all times of the day and night, sometimes 2, 3, & 4 O'clock in the morning for drug dealing. The recipient of the drugs waits in the shelter, a car arrives, the deal is done and they all disperse. The activity in the middle of the night awakens everyone and the elderly, whom are the majority and scared to death.
2. The shelter is regularly used as a toilet and the smell of the excrement is awful, this also poses as an extreme threat to health.
3. The shelter is always plastered in graffiti which the council constantly remove when requested, but generally the graffiti is re-instated within 24 hours.
4. The latest incident in the shelter involved a group of youths who were getting high on laughing gas which caused them to try to break down people's garden fences and further damage to the shelter. The Police are aware of this incident and indeed came along, also collecting the used gas cannisters. They are also aware of all the other incidents over the years.
5. The shelter is also a meeting point for gangs of youths making unacceptable noise, running in and out of people's gardens etc, general anti-social behaviour.

Our passionate request is therefore that you authorise the instant removal of the shelter, but naturally leaving the bus stop itself. I believe all of the anti-social behaviour found its way to the bus shelter after the pub 50 yards away was demolished, that also was closed down on several occasions because of this type of behaviour.

The bus stop is not well used, the maximum number of people I have ever seen waiting for a bus was 5, usually much less and most times none at all, so the buses do not even stop, that's presuming no one wants to alight either. I have never seen anyone stand in the shelter to wait for a bus, the smell is too unbearable, no one would miss the shelter.

The local community are mainly old age pensioners, and it is not overstating the fact that they live in fear of these youths and their anti-social behaviour, one day and it's only a matter of time some-thing regrettable will happen to one of these pensioners. I have attached a statement from one of these pensioners, along with a petition from people living with the disturbances requesting that the bus shelter is removed, but the bus stop remains.

I am sure the removal of the shelter will solve the problem and give all the local residents some peace at last and by having the bus stop remain will also keep the few people that use it very happy.

As well as saving the local council considerable costs, as they will no longer need to send out a team to clean it or replace it with a vandal proof shelter which would not achieve the objective.

Therefore, I would say it's win win all round!

Thank you so much for your sympathetic help in this matter and I look forward to hearing back from you.

The shelter has been the target for graffiti on several occasions (some examples below) which has been removed by the Estates Team.



It would be prudent to have supporting information from the neighbourhood policing team and the views of ward councillors before a final decision is taken. The shelter is also on the rolling programme of bus shelter renewals and could be replaced from this year's budget.

Though the residents concerned would like to see the complete removal, our new shelters are much more open (as those new ones already installed in town), fully glazed and less likely to encourage ASB as there are no hiding places.

The cost of this is £6,700 including the removal of the existing shelter; type of shelter for this location is shown below.



Should it be decided that the shelter is to be removed and not replaced the cost of removal would be £685.00.