

CLERK'S BRIEFING NOTE – SEPTEMBER 2007

SEDLESCOMBE BUS SHELTER

1. The bus shelter has been situated outside the flats currently known as “Pollards”, previously The Coach & Horses public house, since 1970 although until 1992 it was angled with the short side to the road so that passengers could see the bus approaching (see photo below right taken in January 1985). The shelter was originally provided by the Parish Council after requests from bus users at a Parish Assembly and this site was chosen as it was already the bus stop. It is still very well used by bus passengers as well as others. It is an Astolat “Petworth” shelter measuring 9’6”x5’ (2.5mx1.52m).
2. **Damaged shelter Aug 2007**



3. At the time the shelter was provided, the land on which it was situated belonged to Whitbread Fremlins and, for about fifteen years afterwards, Whitbreads granted a licence to the Parish Council to allow the bus shelter to remain (maximum size 9’9”x5’3”). In 1985 Whitbread Fremlins sold the public house and its surrounding land to Dennis Thomas (builders) and the public house was converted into four flats, three of which have been leased. Dennis Thomas was asked several times about a licence but preferred to leave the matter informally. Paul Thomas remains the current owner.


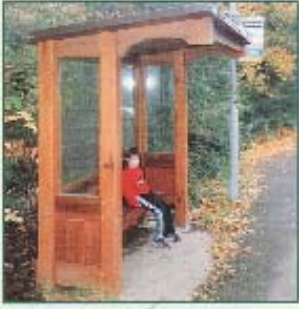
4. Over the years, the bus shelter has been a target for vandals with damage being caused to the whole structure, the front wooden panels, the timetable case, the litter bin and the cedar shingle roof. The late John Cook was an expert in carpentry and managed to shore it up. The timetable case is the bus company's responsibility but Cllr Dellow has this year removed the graffiti. The litter bin has been replaced this year and the ivy removed from the inside although dead ivy remains on the outside. The roof is being continually damaged. When Cllr Glew and I carried out our inspection in August, it was decided that the shelter must be replaced in the next financial year.
5. "No smoking" signs have had to be displayed in the bus shelter since July 2007. The Parish Council runs the risk of a fine if they are not on display. So far three signs have been pinned to the back of the shelter and two have been removed within hours.



6. In the past, Rother District Council has swept out the shelter and the late John Cook used to do it as well. Since Verdant took over in April, this has not happened. Emptying of the bus shelter litter bin has also been very intermittent.
7. As part of the Park View development (RR/22004/3642/P and RR/2007/2199/P), the developers have had to agree to upgrade this bus stop. I have checked what is proposed and have been told by ESCC that the kerb will be lowered so that there is no step up into specially adapted vehicles used on this route. In addition, a completely new bus shelter will have to be provided by the developer.
8. In preparation for consideration, I have
 - a. written to Paul Thomas regarding the land situation
 - b. written to Rother checking that no special approvals are needed for a bus shelter in a Conservation Area
 - c. obtained a catalogue of wooden bus shelter designs from Littlethorpe of Leicester Ltd.
9. Littlethorpe include the following:
 - a. A five-year guarantee against the shelter being burnt down or being kicked in
 - b. A care and graffiti pack supplied– it is suggested that they do not need decorating
 - c. Maintenance contracts in some areas
 - d. Wood from FSC certified forests

- e. Computer-aided design foundation plans to help local ground workers prepare the installation site, ready to receive the new shelter
- f. A bench seat, apart from the Cropston
- g. Laminated glass/Polycarbonate as standard with heavy duty glass fitted at extra cost (£150/pane) [12 month guarantee with the latter]
- h. Shelter fully assembled, decorated, glazed and, if required, wired for lighting or real time information
- i. 240v lighting £350
- j. Solar powered lighting £1800
- k. Transportation by lorry with crane attachment to lower into pre-prepared foundation holes at additional cost depending on distance
- l. Flag bracket to take "bus stop" plate £80 each
- m. Metal display case in silver £250
- n. Either cedar shingles (pitched roofs) or galvanized steel sheets with a bonded plastic coating (mono pitched roofs and fascias)
- o. Tailoring to meet individual needs.

10. Several of the following shelters are the right size.

		
EATON Size: 2.48m x 1.73m Roof size: 3.1m x 1.6m £3,880	HASSOCKS Size: 2.48m x 1.73m Roof size: 3.1m x 1.6m £3,880	BUSHBY Size: 2.48m x 1.73m Roof size: 3.1m x 1.6m £3,850
		
UPPINGHAM Size: 7.5m x 1.82m Roof size: 5.4m x 1.6m £7,760	CROPSTON Size: 2.48m long Roof size: 3.1m x 1.6m £3,880	NEWSTEAD Size: 2.48m x 1.73m Roof size: 3.1m x 1.6m £4,880
		
GREAT LEIGH Size: 2.48m x 1.38m Roof size: 2m x 3.1m £5,850	SHEFFIELD (incl. Seating) Size: 1.7m x 2.98m x 1.5m Roof size: 2m x 3.15m £6,250	RETTENDON Size: 2.48m x 1.28m Roof size: 3.1m x 1.6m £4,700

ALL PRICES INCLUDE SEATING except the Cropston

11. I would suggest that the contractor should be asked to meet at least the following:

- a. Shelter is chosen with mono pitched roof and fascia covered with galvanized steel sheets with a bonded plastic coating – reason is because it is our experience that a cedar shingle roof is prone to vandalism.

- b. Shelter with the ends open ie without wood or polycarbonate or glass including toughened – reason is because it will allow passengers to see when a bus is coming from the north and will allow people intent on causing damage to be seen by passers-by. Either glass or polycarbonate will be susceptible to vandalism.
- c. Shelter with a bench seat – reason is because the shelter is well used by elderly people waiting for the bus.
- d. Shelter to include flag bracket to take “bus stop” plate – reason is because the existing shelter has a similar sign attached.
- e. Shelter to include a metal display case for the timetables.
- f. Shelter to include a litter bin.
- g. Shelter, unless The Cropston is chosen, to have a permanent “No Smoking in this shelter” sign affixed or incorporated into the display case.
- h. No lighting, whether 240v or solar powered, or wiring for information point to be included – reason is because there is currently neither lighting in the area nor an information point.

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