

# Freshford Parish Council

## Bus Stop at Village Hub Proposal

### A Background

I was asked to prepare a report for the September Parish Council outlining the options for both moving bus stops to the Village Hub (The Galleries & Memorial Hall) and to improve and upgrade the space outside the wall.

This report sets out a recommendation for the enhancement of the area at the village hub, otherwise the Memorial Hall, The Galleries shop & café. It provides some options along with high-level estimates and some possible sources of funding.

### B Freshford Parish Council Policy

- At the Parish Council meeting of 10 June 2019 the following resolution was passed:
- “Freshford Lane Bus Stop Update – The PC supports a bus stop serving both directions outside the Village Hall (The Hub).”

### C Design Proposals

- 1 Replace the existing grass and mud surface with maintenance free surface. There are four possible surfacing materials:
  - a. Hoggin - a mix of gravel, sand and clay that binds firmly when compacted, yet allows water to drain through it. This is our recommendation.
  - b. Tarmac – we would not recommend this as a solution but it is an option.
  - c. Grasscrete - a cast on site cellular reinforced concrete system with voids created by styrene void formers.
  - d. Grass Reinforcement Mesh - grass reinforcement plastic meshes are designed to reinforce grassed areas without spoiling the natural beauty of the grass. This was used for pull-in on the Tying.

**We recommend option (a) – Hoggin.**
- 2 Provide a new hard-standing concrete plinth for pushchairs and wheelchairs with dropped kerb.
- 3 Provide a 150 mm concrete kerb.
- 4 Add 150 mm wooden bollards at 3m intervals to prevent cars parking on the area.
- 5 Move both bus stops to be located on either side of the road.
- 6 The bench, now 35 years old, to be replaced by a bench donated by Fraser and Fenella Bradshaw. The existing plaque on the bench to be fitted to the replacement bench.
- 7 No change to the current splay. If the splay was widened to allow improved access for the bus, we will then be encroaching onto the Public Highway which will perhaps then need to be adopted and constructed to BANES exact specification with increased costs.
- 8 See the proposed plan drafted by Cllr Martin Walker:



Proposed bus stop and hardstanding outside Village Hall.pdf

## **D Bus Stops**

The bus will continue to park in the widened driveway, as now.

Cllr Nick Stevens has asked BANES to move both bus stop signs to an existing sign-post closer to the Memorial Hall and shop entrance (the village hub).

## **E Consultation with BANES**

The Senior Engineer at Traffic Management, BANES, Stefan Chiffers, has suggested to the Parish Council in the past that we seek to improve the visual amenity of the area outside the Galleries. Stefan Chiffers has been shown a copy of the report and he is happy with it as drafted.

## **F Funding Options**

- 1 Clearly the Parish Council cannot afford a scheme of this size (estimated to be £3k - £4k).
- 2 BANES would also not be in a position to provide funding given the current austerity cuts under way.
- 3 Cllr Nick Stevens has submitted a funding request to the Great Western Railway Customer and Communities Improvement Fund (CCIF) Application 2020/2021. A decision is unlikely until April 2020. The criteria is: "The CCIF initiative is designed to support schemes along the Great Western and South Western Railway networks that have a tangible community benefit, address an area of social need, and are not for commercial gain. Proposals should evidence social need, community involvement, deliverability and relevance to the railway or the community or customers served by these railways."
- 4 It may be possible to request a small contribution from FLISCA. The criteria that may apply would be "...community projects which benefit the whole, or a significant section of, the communities of the two villages".

## **G Cost**

Cllr Walker has requested a quotation from Mealings & Son Ltd, of Batheaston, Bath.

At 2/9/2019, Mealings had still not supplied a quotation.

## **H Recommendations**

We recommend the following:

- 1 Proceed with the Design Options in Section C above
- 2 Continue to investigate the funding options.
- 3 Liaise with BANES Highways and Cllr Butters to gain support, if not funding, for our proposal.

My thanks to Cllr Stevens and Cllr Walker for their help with this report.

**Cllr Julian Carpenter**

**9 September 2019**

Photos of the site.



