

Bus Shelter Appeals Decision Group

Wednesday 13 March 2019

Minutes

Present

Councillor Kath Hartley (Chair)	Birmingham City Council
Councillor Celia Hibbert	City of Wolverhampton Council
Councillor Mohammed Hanif	Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council

In attendance

Julie Smithers	Transport for West Midlands
Carl Craney	West Midlands Combined Authority

Item No. Title

01 Apologies for Absence

No apologies for absence had been received

02 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were made relative to items under consideration at the meeting.

03 Recommendations of the Bus shelter Appeals Decision Group

Julie Smithers, Network Coordination Specialist, Transport for West Midlands, presented a report which detailed an objection to the positioning of an existing shelter in the public footway outside the BD Price Superstore, High Holborn, Sedgley, a retail premises selling bikes and toys. The Objector was of the opinion that the shelter obscured the left hand side of the double fronted premises. She explained that there was an advertising panel on the left hand side and a timetable case on the right hand side. She reported that the Objector had lobbied for the removal of the shelter since 2014 as he believed it had a negative impact on passing trade and the visual presence of the store.

An alternative location, outside the neighbouring day nursery, had been identified by the Objector and this view had been supported by the Local Councillor. Following a local public consultation exercise an objection to the proposed relocation had been received from the owner of the premises on safeguarding grounds and the Local Councillor had withdrawn his support. A compromise had been identified in 2015 but the original Objector had not taken up this option. It had not been possible to identify an alternative location for the shelter due to highway safety considerations. The Objector continued to communicate during 2015 with the former Centro and subsequently TfWM seeking either the relocation of the shelter or its replacement with a bus stop pole. No further action took place between 2014 and 2018. In 2018 Local Councillors made contact with TfWM to request the shelter be either removed

or relocated. As relocation was not an option, the local Councillors were advised that the available options were restricted to removal only and passenger usage figures (over 150 per day) were shared between the respective parties.

Julie Smithers outlined a proposed way forward by retaining the shelter but removing the advertising cabinet and double royal timetable case from the front of the shelter, replacing the double royal timetable case with a single crown to be fitted to the side panel. She reported that Clear Channel had agreed to the proposal and had identified an alternative site within Dudley Borough for the advertising case. She commended the way forward to the Group. She responded to various questions from members of the Panel.

Agreed:

That the proposed way forward as outlined above be approved and recommended to the Director of Integrated Transport.