



Councillor: David Youngman & Colin Butler	
Body: Harris Avenue Bus Shelter	
Report Date: 2020-09-05	
Meeting & date	Consultation with Residents, 2020-08-31
Key issues discussed at the meeting(s) (relevant to LTC & its constituent bodies)	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1) A sum of £7200 of S.106 funding has been made available to St Margaret's East Ward. There are already six play areas within the ward; extra equipment is already earmarked for Stoven Close.2) An alternative idea from the councillors to benefit the community in general is to provide a bus shelter on the 101 route to town at the junction of Harris Avenue and Hollingsworth Road. This is a popular stop adjacent to shops, Gunton Community Hall and the Baptist Church (with food and clothing banks). There are several sheltered homes and accommodation for elderly people nearby.3) The Network Manager of First Bus at Norwich has confirmed that there is no intent to change the route of the 101 service.4) A visit on-site was made to ask the opinion of residents in the houses adjacent to the stop. There was vehement opposition, not because of any physical intrusion of a shelter itself, but because of a long history of vandalism, anti-social behaviour, drunkenness and drug abuse when a shelter and a bench existed in the past.5) Every waiting passenger asked has fervently supported the proposal of a shelter. Buses are frequently 10-15 minutes late due to traffic congestion in town, and closures of the bascule bridge.
Any actions required by LTC?	The undersigned councillors are left with a dilemma. Both live in the ward, but neither has witnessed any untoward behaviour at bus stops. There is no wish to create a problem and thereby cause misery to the residents of Harris Avenue. On the other hand, just because there has been trouble in past decades is no guarantee that anti-social behaviour will arise around a new bus shelter. Three manufacturers of bus shelters have been contacted; all designs incorporate significant anti-vandal measures. It would be a sad reflection of the local community if the idea were to be abandoned just because of the threat of anti-social behaviour.
Signed: David Youngman & Colin Butler	Date 2020-09-05