

TOWN CLERK BRIEFING NOTE

139 BUS SHELTERS: STATION APPROACH

For the past 12 months or so representatives of RDC, RTC and Rye Rotary have been discussing the condition of the bus shelters in Station Approach with a view to having them replaced.

Rye Rotary is prepared to make a financial contribution (sum to be determined) and RDC is able to commit £5-6,000. This £5-6,000 is in addition to the £20,000 it is intending to spend on a new planting scheme and new seating, hard standing, edging, low level railings and litter bins to improve the whole area.

The main area for debate is the quality and appearance of the replacement shelters. RDC can afford to install two basic wire mesh shelters only.

It has been suggested that the area would benefit from more visually-appealing appealing shelters; however, RDC would require additional funds to achieve this. It has been suggested also that if a way could be found to foster a sense of ownership amongst younger people the risk of vandalism and graffiti would be reduced (see the shelter commissioned by the Redditch Community Safety Partnership which allows for students' artwork to be inserted). Alternatively, installing a shelter with the facility to accept advertising could generate revenue to offset maintenance, insurance costs etc.,

Whether or not RTC decides to contribute to replacement shelters, RDC has suggested that responsibility for them be transferred to RTC.

Aside from RTC's reserves, there is another potential source of funding which Members may consider appropriate. It is known as the Rye Environment Bequest Fund. It comprises £11,722.50, is held by RDC, and was bequeathed for the benefit of the 'Rye Environment'. In early 2006 RDC invited RTC to recommend suitable uses for the fund. The fund was advertised and six applications from local groups/organisations were considered by a panel of Town Councillors. However, for a variety of reasons the panel was unable to recommend any of the proposals to the Town Council. The panel considered it was reasonable to define 'Rye environment' either as the 'natural' or 'built' environment.

Examples of shelter designs – and indicative costs – are attached to Gordon Brooke's letter.

RDC is keen to undertake the planting scheme no later than the end of April to give the plants time to get established.