

Amenities Committee Proposal for a Bus Set Down point on Dovers Park circle

Introduction:

This issue has been ongoing for some time, the request for a set down point first being made near the end of 2008.

The committee (and the Parish Council) have debated the issue many times since and have generally agreed that a set down point would be beneficial for members of the community are unable to carry heavy loads up the hill from the bus terminus opposite the school.

The issues to date can be summarised as:

- 1 Parishioners living in Dovers Park and upper Mountain Wood have requested a 'set down point' at the top of the hill at Dovers Park to allow them to be set down with shopping bags and to save them carrying loads up the steep hill.
- 2 The parish council (PC) agreed to consider this and circulated a questionnaire to residents of Dovers Park and upper Mountain Wood to assess feeling on the issue. The response indicated clear support for a set down point. (35 of 39 respondents were in favour of a set down point).
- 3 A number of residents raised objections to the proposed position of the set down point.
- 4 **Issues raised by objectors have been addressed as follows:**
 - 4-1 **A raised kerb** - One will be needed to meet the Disability Discrimination Act by 2015.
 - 4-2 **A post with a flag** will be required. The flag will be a 'set down only' flag.
 - 4-3 **There will be no shelter.** One is not required as buses will not pick up passengers as the stop will be registered as 'set down only'.
 - 4-4 **A painted 'bus box' will not be required** as long as residents park cars considerately. Every house in the location of the turning circle is provided with a garage and driveway and we therefore presumed that inconsiderate parking should not be an issue.
 - 4-5 **There will be no double yellow lines.** They are only used when already in situ.
 - 4-6 **Safety Issues were raised** following the suggestion of the bus travelling anticlockwise round the circle with regard to the safety of the stop position proposed on the uphill side of the green. These issues were investigated by B&NES and First bus.
 - 4-7 **First Bus confirmed that they were happy to travel anti clockwise** but, since safety issues had been raised, B&NES stated that, as Highway Authority, their road safety team would need to assess the route also.
 - 4-8 **In November last an email was received from objectors**, this time with a 'Google Earth' picture with their suggestions for the position of a stop.
 - 4-9 **An email had also been received from Jon King confirming all the information** that the council was using to consider this issue. The only problem he had was with a letter he had received objecting to the suggestion of the stop being located near the junction when the bus travelled anticlockwise. As a result of that letter he would need the council's road traffic safety team to assess that option.
 - 4-10 **Nov 30th – The Amenities Committee** agreed that their preferred option (subject to approval by B&NES and First Bus) would be to request a set down point at the top of the circle, on the green itself since this would have least effect on nearby properties whilst providing valuable assistance for those in greatest need.
 - 4-11 **December 22nd Jon King confirmed that the road safety inspector was happy with the route selected** and would prefer the stop to be at the top of the green somewhere opposite houses 63 to 67. The exact position to be fixed when the scheme commences.

4-12 Dec 23rd JK raised the issue of the land being under the auspices of B&NES Parks Dept and that this would now need to be raised with them.

4-13 Jan 10th 2011 JK emailed to report that the Parks Dept. saw no issues as long as the stop did not impede grasscutting. JK did not think this was an issue therefore we were OK to go forward with these proposals.

4-14 SC and SB discussed the issue of 'when can it be done and what will it cost' with JK. The answer given was 'not in this financial year and possibly not in the next'. **The cost would be approx. £1500.**

5 The outcome of this long and detailed process is that the Amenities Committee now considers that this has been taken as far as possible to meet concerns of residents who raised objections whilst also trying to meet the needs of those who are less able in the community.

6 Recommendations:

6-1 The Amenities Committee now recommend that the parish council discusses this in open session and votes on a proposal to request a bus 'set down only point' at the top of the Dovers Park tuning circle as outlined in Item 4 above.

6-2 In the event of the PC voting in favour of the proposal in 6-1, The Amenities Committee proposes that funding should be made available from PC reserves, the Mobility funds in the Highways budget and the Parish Plan account to have the set down point installed as quickly as possible.

**Stan Cherry,
Chair, Amenities Committee**

10 Jan 2011