



HIGHWAYS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

6 September 2016

Subject Heading:

**BUS STOP ACCESSIBILITY
Bevan Way
Outcome of public consultation**

CMT Lead:

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Policy context:

**Havering Local Development
Framework (2008)
Havering Local Implementation Plan
2014/15 – 2016/17 Three Year Delivery
Plan (2013)**

Financial summary:

**The estimated cost of £8,000 for
implementation (all sites) will be met
by Transport for London through the
2016/17 Local Implementation Plan
allocation for Bus Stop Accessibility.**

The subject matter of this report deals with the following Council Objectives

Havering will be clean and its environment will be cared for	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
People will be safe, in their homes and in the community	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Residents will be proud to live in Havering	<input type="checkbox"/>

SUMMARY

This report sets out the responses to a consultation for the provision of fully accessible bus stops on Bevan Way and seeks a recommendation that the proposals be implemented.

The scheme is within **Hacton** ward.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Committee having considered the report and the representations made recommends to the Cabinet Member for Environment, Regulatory Services and Community Safety that the bus stop accessibility improvements on Bevan Way set out in this report and shown on the following drawing (contained within Appendix I) are implemented;
 - QP006-OF-B3&B4-A
2. That it be noted that the estimated cost of £8,000 for implementation (all sites) will be met by Transport for London through the 2016/17 Local Implementation Plan allocation for Bus Stop Accessibility.

REPORT DETAIL

1.0 Background

- 1.1 People with mobility problems, the elderly and people travelling with young children find it difficult to board or alight from buses, unless the vehicle is able to pull in close to the kerb (within 200mm). The difficulty of gaining kerbside access is often caused by indiscriminately parked vehicles, or lack of high kerb space adjacent to stops.
- 1.2 Improvements to the bus stop environment such as raising kerbs, relaying footway surfaces, providing short footway links to stops and (in exceptional circumstances) providing pedestrian crossing facilities can help with making bus stops fully accessible to all people. In some situations, it may be appropriate to build the footway out into the road to provide an accessible bus stop, although this will only be appropriate where carriageways are very wide.

- 1.3 The introduction of bus stop clearways improves the accessibility of bus stops by providing sufficient space for buses to pull in close to the kerb. It is important with the provision of buses in London that are fully wheelchair accessible, because the benefits of low-floor/ kneeling buses are considerably reduced (if not removed) if the bus cannot be positioned next to the kerb.
- 1.4 Drawing QB109/00/01B shows a standard bus stop layout where the bus stop is within a length of parked vehicles. In such a situation, a 37 metre long bus stop clearway is required to enable buses to meet the kerb so that both loading doors can be used. Where local conditions allow, this length can be reduced and so any design work will consider needs on a case by case basis.
- 1.5 In some situations, it is recognised that buses stopping on the carriageway can have an impact on traffic flows, especially on narrow roads. However, bus stops which are fully accessible to all people allow for buses to use stops more efficiently, minimising the length of time a bus is stationary. This will have the positive effect of reducing disruption to traffic flows to a minimum.
- 1.6 Where buses cannot fully access the kerb, then there may be delays in the loading or unloading of passengers leading to buses stopping longer than necessary. In some cases, certain passengers may not be able to access buses at all or the bus driver will simply need to pass the stop by where access to the kerb is not possible.
- 1.7 There are 696 bus stops in Havering. 668 are on borough roads, 20 are on the Transport for London Road Network and 8 are in private areas (e.g. Queen's Hospital). Data as of August 2016.
- 1.8 Of these stops, 82% are fully accessible. In order for a stop to be fully accessible, it must meet the following basic criteria;
- The kerb to the footway must be between 125mm and 140mm in height to be compatible with the front and rear loading doors of the bus and the ramp deployed from the rear loading doors;
 - The bus stop should be restricted from parking and stopping by a bus stop clearway so that the stop is always available for buses to be able to pull into tightly to the kerb.
- 1.9 For Havering, funding for Bus Stop Accessibility works has mainly come from the Transport for London Local Implementation plan (LIP), but occasionally funding is secured as part of the development process.
- 1.10 Staff from Environment work with TfL London Buses and the Police (where required) on a programme of mainly route-based Bus Stop Accessibility

improvements, although individual sites are investigated from time to time where there are particular passenger access problems.

- 1.11 The route approach allows for comprehensive review of existing bus stop positions for accessibility, convenience, safety etc. and sometimes requires stops to be moved away from points of conflict such as where parking or proliferation of vehicle crossings prevent stops being accessible in their existing positions.
- 1.12 Proposals for accessibility improvements have been developed for various bus stops along Bevan Way as set out in the following table;

Drawing Reference	Location	Description of proposals
QP006-OF-B3 BS36324 Alma Avenue	Outside property No12	Bus stop flag to be relocated 43.50m south 21metre 24 hour bus stop clearway 140mm kerb and associated footway works provided at bus boarding area Area left for property number 22 & 24 to obtain a vehicle crossover if required
QP006-OF-B4 BS36323 Alma Avenue	Opposite property No 26 & 28	Bus stop flag to be relocated 53.80m north 21metre 24 hour bus stop clearway 140mm kerb and associated footway works provided at bus boarding area 5No trees to be removed for new footway Uncontrolled crossing point at the boundary of 6 & 8

- 1.13 Staff consulted ward councillors on the proposals in advance of the public consultation and all three councillors supported proceeding with consultation.
- 1.14 12 letters were hand-delivered to those potentially affected by the scheme on 5th July 2016, with a closing date of 25th July 2016 for comments.
- 1.15 In addition, ward councillors, HAC members and standard consultees (London Buses, emergency services, interest groups etc) were sent a set of the consultation information.

2.0 Outcome of Public Consultation

2.1 By the close of consultation, 2 responses were received as set out in Appendix I to this report.

2.2 A resident objected to the proposals (stating this was made on behalf of the residents of 4 to 14 Bevan Way). The Havering Coordinator of Friends of the Earth objected to the proposals. Comments were as follows;

- Loss of trees protecting residents from noise and visual disturbance;
- The trees provide a pleasant outlook;
- The trees provide much needed wildlife refuge;
- The existing bus stop location could be adapted;
- The trees are an important part of the natural environment;
- More trees should be planted rather than being cut down given the poor air quality of the borough and the urgent need to reduce CO₂.

3.0 Staff Comments

3.1 The existing southbound stop is not served by a footway and the stop is not accessible to all. In considering an accessible layout, Staff have looked to ensure that people crossing from the eastern side of Hacton Lane are catered for and this could have included the stop remaining in its current position with additional dropped kerbs to assist people crossing from the east to west side of Bevan Way (to the existing footway) and then crossing back west to east at the bus stop.

3.2 Alternatively a footway could be provided on the eastern side of Bevan Way from the crossing point of Hacton Lane, but this would require the removal of trees as with the current proposal and require people to walk in front of a parking area (with no current control on how people park).

3.3 The matter has been discussed with ward councillors who prefer the current proposal. It is recognised that the layout would require the loss of trees and that this is a matter of concern for residents. As with any highway scheme which requires the removal of street trees, a compensatory planting scheme would be agreed with the Highway Tree Team and funded by the project.

3.4 The northbound stop would require relocation to ensure the pair of stops are not directly opposite one another.

IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

Financial implications and risks:

This report is asking HAC to recommend to the Cabinet Member the implementation of the above scheme

The estimated cost of £8,000 for implementation will be met by Transport for London through the 2016/17 Local Implementation Plan allocation for Bus Stop Accessibility. The funding will need to be spent by 31st March 2017, to ensure full access to the grant.

The costs shown are an estimate of the full costs of the scheme, should all proposals be implemented. It should be noted that subject to the recommendations of the committee a final decision then would be made by the Lead Member – as regards actual implementation and scheme detail. Therefore, final costs are subject to change.

This is a standard project for Environment and there is no expectation that the works cannot be contained within the cost estimate. There is an element of contingency built into the financial estimate. In the unlikely event of an overspend, the balance would need to be contained within the overall Environment Capital budget.

Legal implications and risks:

Bus Stop Clearways do not require traffic orders, but Department for Transport guidance suggests that local consultations should take place as has been the case with the proposals set out in this report.

Human Resources implications and risks:

None.

Equalities Implications and Risks:

The Council has a general duty under the Equality Act 2010 to ensure that its highway network is accessible to all users. Where infrastructure is provided or substantially upgraded, reasonable adjustments should be made to improve access. In considering the impacts and making improvements for people with protected characteristics (mainly, but not limited to disabled people, the young and older people), this will assist the Council in meeting its duty under the Act.

The provision of fully accessible bus stops assists with making public transport more inclusive to all sectors of the community, but most especially disabled people and people using pushchairs. Accessible bus stops will be of benefit to people using wheelchairs, but also people who have walking, balance and dexterity difficulties; and blind and partially-sighted people.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Project file: QP006, Bus Stop Accessibility 2016/17

**APPENDIX I
CONSULTATION RESPONSES
SCHEME DRAWINGS**

Respondent	Drawing Reference	Response and Staff Comments (where required)
Residents 10 Bevan Way	QP006-OF-B3&B4-A	<p>We are writing on behalf of ourselves and our neighbours (Nos 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, &14 Bevan Way) to register our opposition to the removal of well- established and mature trees and shrubs, which comprise the copse situated opposite Nos 8, 10 and 12 Bevan Way outlined in your above proposals. We consider this copse to be a much needed amenity on a number of levels.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It protects us from the noise and visual disturbance of the Hacton Lane main road • It provides a pleasant outlook for residents in the local vicinity • It provides a much needed wild life refuge <p>For these reasons we consider the removal of the copse to be a drastic measure in the implementation of a new bus stop, when the existing bus stop opposite No 26 Bevan Way could be altered to serve the required functions you outline in your plans without significant damage to the environment. We trust, therefore, that a more appropriate resolution can be found.</p>
Mr Pirie Coordinator Havering Friends of the Earth	QP006-OF-B3&B4-A	<p>I am the co-ordinator of Havering Friends of the Earth, and I am writing on behalf of the group to support the objections raised by <i>[the resident of No.10]</i> and other residents of Bevan Way. I have been shown me the location of the proposed 'access improvements' and the consultation documents.</p> <p>It seems to me that no case has been made for the expense that would be involved in moving two bus stops approximately 50 metres each, and cutting down a group of trees in order to provide a footpath. At present, wheelchair users can be picked up by buses at the existing stops, when the driver lowers the ramp. Such a move would make no difference that I can see in terms of pedestrian access to the stops (one</p>

		<p>would be moved nearer for some people, while the other would be moved further away for the same people!)</p> <p>The trees - a group of field maples and a well-established alder, provide berries, and are home to many insects, thus providing food and shelter for birds. The alder is a beautiful tree that has been in place for around 50 years I understand. Trees are an important part of the natural environment, in their ability to absorb CO2 and pollutants, and in producing oxygen. We should be planting more trees, not cutting them down, given the poor air quality in the borough - not to mention the urgent need to reduce CO2 in the atmosphere.</p> <p>The trees, and the shrubs beneath them, provide a natural screen and a barrier for local residents against the noise and pollution from Hacton Way, as [<i>the resident</i>] has pointed out.</p> <p>I very much hope that this scheme will be rejected, and some simpler, more environmentally friendly, and less costly solution be found to whatever is regarded as the shortcoming of the present layout (a shortcoming I do not see myself).</p>
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