

Item 13 Development Committee Meeting 19 July 2023

Update - Condition of Todmorden Bus Station

Background

It was resolved at the Development Committee meeting on 1 March 2023 that the Clerk would contact WYCA to complain about the amount of litter in the bus station. The subcontractor of WYCA responded stating that the bus station would be given an additional one-off clean.

It was resolved at the Development Committee meeting on 26 April 2023 that the Clerk would contact WYCA to get the details of the cleaning schedule at the bus station and to complain about the general state of the bus station. The subcontractor of WYCA advised that the bus station is cleaned once a week on a Monday. WYCA stated that they would conduct a thorough audit of the bus station and consider education as a route to reducing the amount of litter. WYCA referred this suggestion to their Communications team.

Members felt that the issue with the bus station was more than litter and that a new bus station should be sought that would provide more shelter for passengers when the weather is inclement. It was resolved at the Development Committee meeting on 24 May, 2023 that the Clerk would contact the Calderdale Councillor responsible for Transport. The Clerk contacted Cllr Scott Patient who suggested that TTC conduct litter picks and that they may wish to lobby for a new bus station. Apart from the once weekly cleaning done of the station by WYCA, regular litter picking is done in the area by volunteers led by Ms L Needham and the Neighbourhood Warden.

One further issue to bear in mind if an enclosed bus station is sought. It would be likely to be more attractive to groups of people out of hours and could increase the levels of anti-social behaviour. Other enclosed bus stations are usually manned. Todmorden Bus Station is not manned and is unlikely to be. Also, the current CCTV, which in previous times was monitored (though not live) from Leeds is not working. This means that no one is monitoring the bus station (other than occasionally the PCSO's) and no recordings are available for scrutiny if an incident occurs.

Previous History

The bus station was built in 1997 and won awards as it was not enclosed and therefore was less likely to encourage anti-social behaviour. In the past, the police inspector used to focus the PSOs on the circuit of the bus station, Patmos, the park and some back streets. This attention meant that youths were discouraged from congregating there.

There have been issues with litter etc. in the Bus Station prior to Covid. Cllr K White was active on this issue. At this time, the contract was for cleaning on all weekdays. A meeting was held with a representative of WYCA in January 2020 and issues included overflowing Biffa bins, the locking of them, the possibility of increasing cleaning to include the weekend when the cleaning contract was to be renewed, the removal of

rubbish from the site after cleaning, vandalism and broken windows. At this stage the CCTV was working in the bus station and there was a working emergency button.

Next Steps

Suggestions have been made that a meeting should be held with WYCA. Also, a further contact could be made to Cllr Scott Patient in his role as representative on the Calderdale Transport Committee.