

**COUNCIL 10 AUGUST 2011****1. Support and Links for Local Organisations assisting older persons – Age UK**

- 1.1 There are a number of local organisations providing various services and facilities for older persons in the community and recently a meeting was held with Liz Simpson the Day Services Development Manager of Age UK – Northumberland to consider how to assess future requirements and support.
- 1.2 Members will be aware that the funding from the county council for Meals on Wheels Services ran out in July leading to the closure of the Age UK service and this is also likely to affect the WRVS service in Newbiggin. This could result in more elderly people being remote from services and regular contact. Age UK is developing its Handyman and Gardening service to help people feel safe secure and supported.
- 1.3 It was felt that it would be opportune to establish the range and extent of voluntary services for older persons in the town and consider what links and support were required and how the Town Council and Age UK could assist.

**Recommended that the Town Council facilitate a local conference in the autumn of all voluntary groups and organisations involved with older persons.**

**2. Cycle/Footway to Grace Darling Campus**

- 2.1 The Town Council recognised the need to improve and provide an all weather pedestrian and cycle route to the new school being built on the Grace Darling Campus to serve children from 3 years to 11 years from the whole town from September.
- 2.2 This was particularly important for children from the east end of the town and a scheme was proposed as one of the Town Council's top three priority schemes for the county council's Local Transport Programme.
- 2.3 Discussions have been ongoing and Councillor Thompson will update the meeting regarding the implementation of a Cycle/Footway scheme.

**3. Local Transport (LTP) Programme Priorities for 2012-13**

- 3.1 Northumberland County Council has started the process to review the priorities for the LTP for 2012-13 and has invited the Town Council to submit its top three priorities.
- 3.2 Last year the three priorities submitted to the county council were:
  - i) A section of new cycle track and footpath widening scheme adjacent to Spital Farm to provide a safe walking and cycle route to the High School;
  - ii) A town-wide reduced speed limit for all non classified roads in the town;
  - iii) A new cycle track and footpath from East Lea to the Colliery and the new school site to provide a safe all weather route for young children.

3.3 While these schemes have been added to the list of requests for transport related schemes within the Parish which will be available at the meeting they do not appear to be included in any present transport programme although the remainder of the programme was delegated to the Corporate Director in consultation with the Executive Member.

3.4 The list of thirteen current requests will be available at the meeting.

**Recommended that the Town Council decide its top three priorities for assessment for inclusion in the Local Transport Plan.**

#### **4. Bus Shelter Provision and Maintenance**

4.1 The provision and maintenance of bus shelters is a service that the county council feels should be undertaken by the Town and Parish Councils and is under consideration for service transfer in 2012.

4.2 In recent weeks the condition of the bus shelters throughout the town has been assessed and generally they are in good structural condition with only minor repairs and improvements required. There is a wide range of metal shelters however affording varying degrees of shelter and many are need of redecoration with one or two requiring replacement or additional safety glazing.

4.3 It would appear that the county council is unlikely to undertake significant work or replace existing shelters and will not provide new ones. There is an outstanding request to replace the two shelters on Woodhorn Road at the Colliery which are of poor appearance and requests for new shelters at Front Street (Bank House) and between East Lea and Woodlea (outside Keir Hardie Court).

4.4 There is now a Bus Shelter Procurement application that must be submitted by a Town or Parish Council to the county council for approval which is subject to the following conditions:

1. Accept and be responsible for all maintenance, repair, cleaning and associated costs of the Bus Shelter from the date of installation
2. Ensure that the installation of the shelter takes into account road safety implications and that appropriate consultation takes place with residents

**RECOMMENDED that the Town Council consider its position in respect of local bus shelters.**