



# Executive Committee

No Direct Ward Relevance

16 September 2009

## ARROW VALLEY COUNTRYSIDE CENTRE – INSTALLATION OF BUS STOP

(Report of the Head of Leisure and Arts)

### 1. Summary of Proposals

To consider a proposal for the provision of a bus stop and connecting footpath from Battens Drive to Arrow Valley Countryside Centre.

### 2. Recommendations

The Committee is asked to **RECOMMEND** that

**approval be given for the allocation of the sum of £10,245.00 for the provision of a bus stop and connecting footpath from Battens Drive to Arrow Valley Countryside Centre within the Capital Programme; and**

**to RESOLVE that, if approved,**

**approval be given to incur up to the expenditure detailed above, in accordance with Standing Order 41.**

### 3. Financial, Legal, Policy, Risk and Sustainability Implications

#### Financial

The total budget for ground works with a Flag and Pole bus stop configuration £10,245.00

A small addition to the existing Capital Landscaping Project cost would be allocated to carry out minor soft landscaping works

#### Legal

There is no statutory requirement for the Borough to provide the additional bus stop or the associated footpath

#### Policy

No Policy Implications have been identified.

### Risk

The Council can not compel the operators to continue with a service in the long term. Withdraw of service by the operators would make the investment redundant, however the facility has the potential assist in providing a bespoke service for special events.

### Sustainability / Environmental

- 3.6 Potential decrease in private vehicle accessing the park by providing an alternative public transport option.

### Report

#### **4. Background**

- 4.1 During 2008 and 2009 requests were received by the County Council from Redditch Borough Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Councillor Juliet Brunner to consider a bus stop to serve the Arrow Valley Country Park. An initial assessment was carried out during 2008, which identified safety concerns in relation to the position of a bus stop on Battens Drive adjacent to the entrance to the Country Park, due to the fact that there is no footway to enable those passengers alighting at the stop to walk from the stop to the Countryside Centre. (The view was expressed that passengers alighting from the bus would walk in the roadway, which we can not sanction).
- 4.2 Mr. Chris Wilson, Project and Appraisal Officer in the Integrated Passenger Transport Department at Worcestershire County Council has confirmed that the County Council will support a bus stop on Battens Drive on the Country Park side of the road, providing a suitable footway can be provided to link the bus stop to existing footways inside the park. The County Council does not consider a bus stop on the side opposite the Country Park to be viable.

#### **5. Key Issues**

- 5.1 Officers have received confirmation from the Project and Appraisal Officer in the Integrated Passenger Transport Department at Worcestershire County Council, that the new proposed stop will be serviced by the existing Hardings 60, hourly service and the new First 52 hourly, off peak service.
- 5.2 The two services will observe the new stop operating in a northerly direction towards the Coventry Highway Island.
- 5.3 The two services will operate a total of 20 services per day (Monday to Saturday).

- 5.4 Estimates received for a 48m x 2m wide footpath and a bus stop area 5m x 3m wide at £9,795.00 (including a 10% contingency)
- 5.5 Estimates received for a post mounted Bus Stop with Flag sign, at £450.00
- 5.6 The soft landscaping required to enable the upkeep of the proposed new footpath and stop would require a small addition to the existing Capital Landscaping Project being undertaken at the Battens Drive entrance to the Centre

### 6. Other Implications

- Asset Management - The existing revenue budget of £12,500.00 for the repair and maintenance may need to be increased accordingly, if an accompanying shelter is provided.
- Community Safety - Worcestershire County Council have confirmed that pedestrian accidents have occurred in this vicinity and the lack of a bus stop facility does create congestion issues at large events.
- Human Resources - None identified.
- Social Exclusion - The provision of a regular public transport link to the Countryside Centre will afford access to residents with limited or no means of transportation. This provision will aid in removing one of the associated barriers to participation from hard to reach groups. The proposal also supports the Councils decision to subsidise bus travel for the 60 plus age group.
- Sustainability/  
Environmental - Potential decrease in private vehicle accessing the park by providing an alternative public transport option. Public transport is a more efficient way of reducing the boroughs carbon output

7. **Lessons Learnt**

The Project and Appraisal Officer in the Integrated Passenger Transport Department at Worcestershire County Council will not provide the funding for the footpath or stop. If Redditch Borough Council provide the stop and connecting footpath then the service mentioned will service the stop as part of route.

8. **Background Papers**

No background papers are listed.

9. **Consultation**

Consultation has taken place with relevant Borough Council Officers and the Arrow Valley Country Park User Forum whom support the bus stop provision for the site

Consultation has taken place with relevant Borough Planning Officers and they have confirmed that planning permission is not required for this type of proposed stop

Overview and Scrutiny Committee have debated the provision of a bus stop to serve the Arrow Valley Country Park.

10. **Author of Report**

The author of this report is Ray Cooke (Leisure Service Manager), who can be contacted on extension 3248 (email: ray.cooke@redditchbc.gov.uk) for more information.

11. **Appendices**

Appendix 1 - Proposed Site Plan (To follow)