

F&GS Committee Meeting – 13 September 2022

Proposed New Public Seating

Background

This report outlines the request for new public seating in Ashington.

The requests come from two residents and are focused on areas where there is currently limited public seating close to established walkways / cycle paths in the town.

Location Requests

B1334 Cycle path

A resident has requested that two public seats be installed on the B1334 cycle path, between Hillcrest and the College Road junction. The resident highlights that a number of elderly residents use the path but the lack of public seating causes issues with residents having to use garden walls etc on their walk.

Two suitable locations, opposite Hillcrest (Seaton Ward) and at Ancroft Place (College Ward) have been identified. The two sites give consideration to nearby housing and any possible ASB issues. A site visit has been undertaken with ward Councillors who are supportive of this request and the identified locations.

Peoples Park

A resident has requested that a further public seat be installed at Peoples Park. The resident highlights that there is a gap in seat provision from Park Road and Wansbeck Road to the south of the Park.

A suitable location has been identified close to Ashington Academy but considerable distance from nearby housing, which again gives consideration to any possible ASB issues.

Type of Seat

The Town Council in recent years has purchased public seats from Streetmaster, a leading provider of public seating to local authorities with a focus on recycled materials in the construction of the seats. There are two options for members to consider as follows:

- (i) The 'Hereford' Seat is made fully from recycled plastic (photograph below). However there is no option of arm rests which may be problematic for some residents in using this particular style of seat.



The 'Hereford' Seat

- (ii) The 'Colwyn' Seat is made from recycled plastic supported by a metal frame (photograph below). The Colwyn seat, with a metal frame, enables armrests which will provide support for some residents as they use the seat.



The 'Colwyn' Seat

Fitting

The three seats will be fitted into a concrete base as per the manufacturers instructions. The work will be carried out by the Town Council's Neighbourhood Services Officers. The seats would be added to our asset register and be inspected and maintained by the Town Council moving forward.

Cost

The cost of the Hereford Seat is £550.85 including carriage.

The cost of the Colwyn Seat is £523.10 including carriage.

Summary

The total cost of the purchase of three seats is £1652.55 for the Hereford style or alternatively £1569.30 for the Colwyn style.

This work which will require the Town Council to commit to installation costs and on-going maintenance.

Stephen Humphrey
Assets & Facilities Manager
25 August 2022