

National Highways has in its submission entitled: Summary of Applicant's Oral Submissions at Issue Specific Hearing 2 (ISH2) paragraph 8.1.14 stated that it does not consider that this Parish Council has any interest in the stone bus shelter on the current A417 east of the Air Balloon roundabout.

Cowley and Birdlip contends that it does have substantial and material interest in this building and has as such for nearly 70 years.

The Parish Council minutes in 1956 record that the Parish Council received a request from the then Birdlip Radio Station to provide a new bus shelter for its staff. The radio station at the time was a substantial communications facility serving both civil and the 'Cold War' interests of the post war GCHQ facility in Cheltenham. This request was initially rejected by the Parish Council due to the cost. However the Parish Council worked with the County Council to arrange to acquire another existing shelter and move it to the current site as requested by the Radio Station. The Parish Council has insured and maintained this bus shelter ever since including replacement of the roof in 2004 and removal of graffiti on several occasions.

Cowley and Birdlip Parish Council has records to show that it has owned and maintained this bus shelter since at least 1956 and has continually listed it on its Asset Register as it has a legal responsibility to insure and maintain it as a public asset

The Parish Council already has had discussions at a meeting convened by National Highways with local bus operators to discuss impacts on public transport as a result of the A417 Missing Link scheme. The issue of the bus shelter at Barrow Wake was discussed and also whether it should be replaced at a new site once the impact of the scheme is decided on local bus routes.

The Parish Council would be happy to have further discussions about National Highways replacing this bus shelter perhaps on a new site at an agreed location on or around the new diverted B4070 to provide access by public transport to Barrow Wake and the new Air Balloon Way. Alternatively the Parish Council request that National Highways provide compensation by way of Compulsory Purchase.

Also the Parish Council asks the Examining Authority note that in the community of Birdlip there is a strong feeling that after 66 years of first building and then maintaining this building, National Highways should not ignore the interests of the Parish Council and the needs of the community.

The following documents are attached to this submission:

1. 2021 Parish Council Asset Schedule (previous years are available if required)
2. Sample historical Insurance schedule dated 2006
3. Current insurance schedule dated 2021/22 (shown as street furniture)
4. Excerpt from Parish Council minutes from 1956
5. Excerpt from Parish Council minutes dated 1962
6. Roof repair invoice from 2004.