

QUESTION BY COUNCILLOR**Question submitted by: Councillor George Wheeler****To Cabinet Member:** Councillor Jonathan Drea**Question:**

There are three transport schemes currently nearing implementation that are affecting St Budeaux Square; they are the Interchange, the cycle route and the Hub, the latter being a Beryl bike stand in this case. I am pleased that officers are still open to concerns about environmental and other issues so that we may get the best scheme that can be provided, rather than a rushed one that misses opportunities for improvement. However, the bus shelters that used to be on the in-bound side of the Square were removed in August. This has left bus passengers with nowhere to shelter or rest while they wait for their bus and no information system, long before work on the project was ready to begin. Can you tell me why the shelters were removed so early, please?

Response:

Thank you for your query. I apologise for the inconvenience that the absence of shelters at St Budeaux Square is currently causing.

The proposed design will bring new shelters, new signage, improved public realm, new planting and space to accommodate the new Mobility Hub's E-Bikes. We are investing just over £2m on St Budeaux Square to bring some needed modernisation to the heart of St Budeaux and Barne Barton.

It is crucial that the shelters are not in situ when construction begins so that the works can commence and the new shelters can be installed. The dates for the removal works had to be booked in advance as there is a long lead in time of approximately three months with JC Decaux for their removal. The project team's intention had been to start construction shortly after the shelters were removed but the scheme was subsequently delayed due to complications with the site compound location and delays in obtaining utility information.

By the time the project manager understood that there would be a delay to the scheme the shelter had been removed. At present, the programme sees the commencement of construction of the transport improvements early in the New Year.

A temporary shelter is not a viable option because this would take over three months to procure and install and a very short time later would need to be removed. In addition, this would be a significant pressure on the scheme funding when external pressures are already being placed on capital projects.

Signed: Councillor Jonathan Drea**Dated: 21/11/2022**