Our ref: JMc/20418R

Stocksfield Parish Council
Stocksfield Community Centre
Mount View Terrace
Stocksfield
Northumberland
NE43 7HL

27 October 2025

Dear Nick,

BUS SHELTER, WEST ROAD, STOCKSFIELD – STRUCTURAL INSPECTION AND APPRAISAL

Red Fox Consulting Engineers Ltd were appointed by Stocksfield Parish Council to undertake a structural inspection and appraisal of the existing Bus Shelter located on West Road, Stocksfield. The purpose of the inspection was to review the current condition of the structure and to assess whether any significant risks or signs of structural instability are present.

A visual inspection was carried out on 13 November 2025 by Jonnie McGill, BEng CEng MIStructE. A number of photographs were taken during the inspection; a selection is included within this report, and additional images are available upon request.

The Bush Shelter comprises three full-height brick masonry walls and is approximately 4.5 m × 2 m on plan. The front elevation consists of a low-level brick wall with a central timber door frame and timber panelling to the high level above. The roof appears to comprise a full-spanning timber member supporting a mono-pitch roof sloping to the rear. The original roof finish is believed to be felt.

At some point in recent years, a “green roof” system has been installed above the existing covering. This consists of modular planting trays laid onto a rubber membrane. The weight of this system is expected to be relatively modest but is nevertheless an addition to the original design loading.

No evidence of structural distress was observed to the primary load-bearing elements. In particular:

- No signs of significant cracking, rotation or displacement were noted within the masonry walls.
- There was no observable evidence of foundation movement or settlement.
- The visible roof structure did not display signs of excessive deflection, overstressing, or localised crushing.

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It was not possible to determine the depth or full sectional properties of the roof timbers without opening-up works. However, based on the visible performance of the structure and the absence of deformation, there is no immediate indication of inadequacy.

The front timber door frames have previously undergone a repair, including a diagonal splice. These elements appear to be non-load-bearing. The main load transfer at the front edge of the shelter is via the continuous timber beam running across the opening. This beam appears to span the full width of the shelter and is the primary element supporting the front edge of the roof.

Based on the visible structure, the front timber member is approximately 90 mm wide with a visible depth of minimum 90mm (although this is assumed to be greater). Calculation against modern design standards indicate that this member would need to be approximately 200mm deep to have sufficient capacity for the applied loads. It is apparent that this is not the case. However, there is no observable evidence of distress, and the structure has evidently performed satisfactorily over time.

While the current condition suggests that the roof beam is performing adequately, its long-term capacity cannot be fully verified without intrusive inspection to confirm its dimensions and grade. Nevertheless, due to the absence of visible overstressing or deflection, and given the relatively modest roof loading, the existing arrangement is considered acceptable in its present state.

It is therefore recommended that one of the following options are undertaken:

1. Periodic inspections of the shelter are undertaken to confirm no change in condition.
2. Localised opening-up of the front roof beam may be considered if the Parish Council wishes to establish an absolute confirmation of structural adequacy.

Any future refurbishment works should incorporate a review of the roof beam sizing, with strengthening introduced if required once dimensions are known.

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Enc: Photographs





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