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## BUS SHELTER PLAN TO BEAT THE YOBS

By Ed Hill

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SEATS could be taken out of a village's bus shelters - or the structures demolished completely - to combat anti-social behaviour.

Members of Tutbury Parish Council are prepared to take drastic action after suffering months of noisy drunken behaviour, graffiti, littering and damage to the village's shelters by youths who congregate there 'day and night', intimidating bus passengers.



The warning was made after a brick and timber shelter outside the Dog and Partridge restaurant, in High Street, was targeted by vandals who caused hundreds of pounds of damage.

Shelters in Park Lane, Holt's Lane and Burton Road have also been damaged in recent months.

Villagers who use the bus route are even being forced to stand outside in the rain by gangs of youths who are waiting for friends.

Councillors have now called for a meeting with Neighbourhood Watch chiefs to discuss how the issue can be resolved — with the removal of a seat in the High Street shelter a popular choice.

Dave Morris told a meeting of the parish council: "On Saturday nights, the state of the bus shelter in High Street is unbelievable. It's anti-social behaviour, plain and simple.

"If that bus shelter is an advert for Tutbury High Street then we are failing. Unfortunately, bus shelters are an attraction for the wrong type of people.

"I'm not altogether an anti-seat person, but I've spoken to people and they are not bothered as long as they have somewhere to stand in inclement weather."

Fellow member Bill Crossley claimed he had seen a teenage boy damaging the bus shelter in Burton Road, but said the youth did not seem deterred when challenged.

Councillor Crossley said: "They are damaging tiles, dropping litter and we don't know how to control it — I don't know the answer. They just don't seem to care.

"They congregate in them at all sorts of hours, day and night, and we need a quick response. That means either removing the shelters or finding some other way to control behaviour."

Glass has already been removed from a bus shelter in Holt's Lane because it was repeatedly smashed, but councillors say it is now being used as football goalposts.

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