



Daventry District Council

Newnham Payphone Removals

01327 702272 – Newnham

Decision Statement

18th April 2019

1. Summary

- 1.1 BT approached DDC in 2016 to remove the telephony equipment from the telephone box at the village green in Newnham, along with proposals in many other locations.

In a report to Strategy Group in January 2017 it was agreed that an objection be raised to the proposal for Newnham because of the poor mobile signal. The Parish Council initially also objected, but latterly decided that it wished to adopt the box.

The Parish Council has now been back in touch with BT and the Council expressing its desire to adopt the box and use it as a library. The Parish Council has been contacted, and advised about the previous decision based on the poor signal, and it has subsequently responded indicating that the mobile signal is now very good.

BT has indicated that if written consent is provided by the Council, the adoption process can proceed. This note sets out the formal decision of DDC. Following signing of this document, a formal response will be made to BT.

2. Background

- 2.1 Before Parish Councils can adopt kiosks, BT is obliged under Ofcom regulations to consult with relevant public bodies on the permanent removal of the telephony service. As part of the consultation process it is a requirement that the Council reply in writing to BT within 90-days giving their comments or any objections received from the local community.
- 2.2 That consultation was undertaken in late 2016. Whilst that is some time ago, BT have indicated that they would be content with written confirmation that DDC is now supportive of the adoption.

- 2.3 The box is a K6 and is located adjacent the village green. An application to have the box listed was not successful.
- 2.4 Part 5 (Responsibility for Functions) of the Council's constitution delegates decisions enabling the decommissioning of telephony equipment to the Business Manager where:
- (a). There is no objective need for the telephony; and
 - (b). The box is either not a traditional red box (K6) or would be adopted by a parish council or other suitable body

3 Consideration

- 3.1 In the last report to Strategy Group concerning this matter (January 2017), prior to the delegation arrangement, a number of considerations were put forward for determining the applications that were before that meeting. Whilst these were not made binding on any future determinations by the Business Manager, they are useful considerations in assessing (a). above:

- Responses from parish councils, including if they wish to adopt the box;
- Responses from residents;
- Any information received about poor signals for mobile phones in the locality;
- Any views that the phone could serve a useful purpose in an emergency e.g. alongside the canal network; and
- The level of usage, broadly speaking if a phone is used for more than about 50 times in the last year it could have a useful social purpose.

- 3.2 The Parish Council report that at their recent Annual Parish Meeting the parishioners expressed a strong desire to purchase the box, renovate it and use it as a library.

4.0 Decision

Having considered the proposals in the light of the terms approved by Council in February 2017, I am satisfied that the Council should respond by withdrawing its objection to the proposals from BT to remove the telephony equipment from the telephone box in Newnham to enable its adoption by the Parish Council.

Report written by.

Signed:

Richard Wood, Local Strategy Manager

Date.....

Report approved and decision made by

Signed:

Simon Bowers, Business Manager

Date.....