



Daventry District Council

Harlestone Payphone Removals

01604 753903 – Upper Harlestone

01604 821725 – Lower Harlestone

Decision Statement

22nd January 2019

1. Summary

- 1.1 Following an approach from Harlestone Parish Council, BT has requested DDC to agree to the removal of telephony equipment from two K6 telephone boxes in Harlestone. This note sets out the formal decision to that request. 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 On 5th November 2018 BT notified DDC that Harlestone Parish Council had registered an interest with them in adopting two K6 telephone kiosks, one in Upper and one in Lower Harlestone.
- 2.3 On 12th November DDC sent an email to the Parish Council inviting comments on the proposals (albeit it was clearly already aware of, and by its action supportive of, the proposals).
- 2.4 A notice was placed on the consultation section of the Council's website inviting comments before Friday 4th January 2019. BT also posted notices on the kiosks, inviting anyone with views to notify the District Council.
- 2.5 Only one response was received, from the Parish Council. That response is attached at appendix A.

- 2.7 Both boxes are listed Grade II. The Parish Council has been made aware that any changes they make to the boxes may require consent. Their intention is to use the boxes to house defibrillators.
- 2.7 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.

- 3.1 As noted above, only one response has been received, from the Parish Council. This states that the phone signal in the parish is not 'great' but also observes that in an emergency, there are many properties in the vicinity of the boxes where assistance could be sought, using landlines. BT has advised that neither box has been used at all in the last 12 months. Whilst there is some concern that the mobile phone system may be poor, the point made in response to this by the Parish Council is a fair one, and taking into account the proposed use of the boxes, on balance it is considered that this concern should not stop the removal of the telephony equipment.

- 3.2 Regarding (b), in this case the boxes are traditional red K6 boxes, and the Parish Council are wishing to adopt both of the boxes.

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 with 'No Objections' to the proposals from BT to remove the telephony equipment from

the two telephone boxes in Harlestone to enable their 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.....

Appendix 1 – Response from Harlestone Parish Council.

Thank you for your email, to be honest the mobile phone signal is not great, but both these boxes are surrounded by houses, village hall, pub etc, they are both in the heart of the village and so in an emergency I believe that there would be numerous amounts of land lines available if needed.

For conservation issues, we intend to consider these boxes for use as defibrillator stations, they would stay red but the signage would be changed from telephone to defib

Thank you, Paul

With very Best Wishes

Mr. Paul OR Thomas

Executive Officer/Clerk

Responsible Financial Officer to the Council.