

Devizes Area Board – May 19th 2014

Request for change of use of Telephone Box

Purpose

To agree a request from Bishops Cannings Parish Council to overturn the previous objection from Kennet District Council to removing the Horton telephone kiosk.

Background

Bishop's Cannings Parish Council wish to adopt the Horton telephone kiosk in order to house a 'community Publicly Accessible Defibrillator'. The council has been in contact with BT Payphones, who have no problem in principle with decommissioning this very rarely used public payphone and making it available for community adoption. The difficulty arises because in 2008 Kennet District Council objected to the removal of the Horton telephone kiosk and would not lift the objection to allow adoption. BT Payphones now require a formal notification from Wiltshire Council that the previous prohibition can be dropped.

The situation has changed from 2008 when both the community and the parish council did not wish to see the kiosk left without a useful function and face removal or abandonment. The reinvention of the kiosk as a central point for a cPAD is a socially useful enterprise and gives a new purpose to a valued feature of the street-scene.

Reason for being area board decision?

The decision as to whether to lift the objection to allow adoption is delegated to the area board as it only affects this area and is within agreed budget

Recommendation

It is recommended that Devizes area board agree to the request from Bishops Cannings Parish Council to remove any objection to them adopting the telephone kiosk in Horton in order to house a defibrillator.