

Councillors Briefing Note

Briefing Note No. 23 - 31

Service: Economic Development and Planning
Further Enquiries to: Mary Moore
Date Prepared: 31/10/2023
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Ridge, Chilmark, Salisbury, SP3 5BS 'Adopt a Kiosk' BT Consultation.

The council has formally been notified by British Telecom (BT) on the 12 October 2023, that they have received a request from Chilmark Parish Council who are interested in taking ownership of the **Ridge, Chilmark, Salisbury SP3 5BS (01747 870418)** phone kiosk under the 'Adopt a Kiosk' scheme.

Any recognised local authority, parish/community/town council, registered charity or any community interest company throughout the UK or Scotland can apply to adopt their local phone box.

This consultation concerns Chilmark Parish Council's request to adopt the Ridge kiosk and BT's de-commissioning of the payphone service and equipment removal at this location.

BT has an obligation to provide a universal service, and this will be maintained, as there are other kiosks within the vicinity. Note: once the Ridge kiosk is de-commissioned the nearest public telephony is The Street, Chilmark, Salisbury SP3 5AP which is 1,839 metres away.

Please refer to all attached documents relating to the Ridge phone box for this consultation.

As the local authority, we are required to carry out a 90-day period consultation process to canvas the views of the local community. Therefore, we are seeking the views of Chilmark Parish and community, the Wiltshire Councillors representing the community area, representatives and other groups and organisations representing the community, on the de-commissioning of the payphone service.

For the adoption request to be processed by the service provider (BT), the local authority will agree not to raise an objection to the disconnection from the telecommunications network and the payphone equipment to be removed.

The adopting community must also apply to the relevant authorities for any of the necessary consents to retain the phone box. This may involve planning consent depending on the Local Authority.

If people have objections, they must provide us with the reasons for any objections to the removal of the payphone service at Ridge, Chilmark before the 90-day consultation period end date.

Further details about the 'adopt a kiosk' scheme can be found at <http://business.bt.com/phone-services/payphone-services/adopt-a-kiosk/>

The consultation period will close on **5 January 2024**, please ensure you return your comments by 5 January 2024. All responses will be collated and directed to a single point of contact detailed below.

Your response to be returned to Mary Moore who will co-ordinate the response on behalf of the council:

Mary Moore
Development Officer, Regeneration
Economic Development and Planning
Wiltshire Council
Mary.Moore@wiltshire.gov.uk

BT will disconnect the payphone service as soon as possible after the consultation period has ended.

Full guidance on the removal process can be viewed at:
https://help.business.bt.com/euf/assets/pdf/bt_payphone_removals.pdf

Wiltshire Council will submit a response to BT on the proposed Adoption by the end of the consultation end date.