

## Report of the Chief Executive

**PROPOSED REMOVAL OF PUBLIC PAYPHONES**1 Purpose of Report

To consider a proposal from British Telecommunications (BT) to remove 7 public payphones from the above locations across the borough. BT has placed consultation notices on the relevant payphones and the Council is consulting on three options:

- To agree to the removal.
- To adopt the call box for use by the local community; or
- To object to the removal

This report will set out the Council's initial recommendation based on the information provided and 2 public consultation periods which have now passed. Following this an agreed response will be submitted to BT.

2 Background

BT has indicated that overall use of payphones has declined by over 90 per cent in the last decade and the need to provide payphones for use in emergency situations is diminishing all the time, with at least 98 per cent of the UK having either 3G or 4G coverage. This is important because as long as there is network coverage, it's now possible to call the emergency services, even when there is no credit or no coverage from your own mobile provider.

3. Further information

Detailed information is included in the appendix.

**Recommendation**

**The committee is asked to RESOLVE that an objection is raised to the proposed removal of 3 of the 7 payphones across the borough, being those on the Junction of Raglan Street and Nottingham Road (19/10228/ENQT), Carwood Road (19/10223/ENQT), and Lawrence Avenue/Tennyson Square, Awsworth (19/10226 ENQT) with a request being made to BT that these boxes are adopted by the Council.**

Background papers

Nil

**APPENDIX**

Consultation

The Council has undertaken an initial 21 day consultation period for each of the proposed payphone removals. This process has included posting a site notice outside each payphone and writing directly to the Local Councillors covering the area affected by each removal, as well as writing to the relevant Town/Parish Councils. BT has also placed consultation notices in each of the payphones to be removed.

A further 28 day consultation has also been carried out using the same methods identified above, notifying relevant parties what the Council's recommendation is with regards to each of the proposed payphone removals.

Recommendations

**Junction of Raglan Street/Nottingham Road, Eastwood**

Over the last 12 months this payphone has been used to make 90 calls. Taking into account the built up location it is unlikely the site will be affected by mobile signal blackout issues in the future and the presence of local amenities and residential dwellings would likely facilitate swift action should there be emergencies in close proximity to the site in the future.

One objection to the removal of this payphone has been received from Eastwood Town Council, due to the ongoing use of the payphone. A response from Cllr M Brown has also suggested that the box is retained and put to use with a defibrillator in. Taking the built up location and limited use of the payphone into account it is considered that the Council should not raise any objection to the removal of this payphone, but should explore the possibility of adopting the phone box to have a defibrillator installed. It should however be noted that BT's standard policy is to only allow for the adoption of red heritage phone boxes, which this is not.

Eastwood Town Council and Councillor M Brown, as the prospective adoptees, have been written to by the Planning Department to notify them of the procedure for requesting the adoption of the phone box to house a defibrillator.

**Church Street, Eastwood**

Over the last 12 months this payphone has been used 4 times. One objection to the removal has been submitted by Eastwood Town Council due to its continued use by members of the public. However, taking into account the low usage over the last 12 months it is considered that the Council should not raise any objection to the removal of this payphone.

**Carwood Road, Beeston**

Over the last 12 months this payphone has been used 244 times. Councillor B Carr has expressed an interest in this payphone being adopted to store a defibrillator. Taking into account the built up location and close proximity of residential dwellings which would likely facilitate swift action should there be emergencies in close proximity to the site in the future, it is considered that the Council should recommend this payphone is adopted.

Councillor B Carr, as the prospective adoptee, has been written to by the Planning Department to notify her of the procedure for requesting the adoption of the phone box to house a defibrillator.

**Corner of Lawrence Avenue/Tennyson Square, Awsworth**

Over the last 12 months this payphone has been used to make 1 call. One objection in relation to the proposal from Awsworth Parish Council has been received.

The objection states that the removal of the payphone would result in the loss of a valued public facility and further notes that there is a public defibrillator close by and the access for which would need to be obtained via contacting 999 and the kiosk provides a ready means for this. The Parish Council also proposes that the condition of the kiosk should be improved and maintained to encourage its use and also recommends that its use be monitored for another 12 months.

It is considered that due to the built up location, it is unlikely the site will be affected by signal blackout issues in the future and the presence of local amenities and residential dwellings would likely facilitate swift action should there be emergencies in close proximity of the site in the future. It is also considered that the extremely low usage of 1 call over a 12 month period does not justify the retention of the telephone kiosk.

Whilst there is a public defibrillator close by, details have been passed to the Awsworth Parish Council notifying them of how they can apply to adopt the telephone box for the installation of a defibrillator.

**Awsworth Lane, Cossall**

Over the last 12 months this payphone has been used to make 2 calls. No objections have been received in relation to the removal of this payphone. Taking into account the low usage over the last 12 months it is considered that the Council should not raise any objection to the removal of this payphone.

**Front of Festival Inn 2 Ilkeston Road, Trowell**

Over the last 12 months this payphone has been used to make 9 calls. Taking into account the built up location, it is unlikely the site will be affected by signal blackout issues in the future and the presence of local amenities and residential dwellings would likely facilitate swift action should there be emergencies in close proximity of the site in the future.

No objections to the removal of this payphone have been received and taking the above into account it is therefore considered that the Council should not raise any objection to the removal of this payphone.

**Corner of Pinfold Lane/Nottingham Road, Stapleford**

Over the last 12 months this payphone has been used to make 1 call. Taking into account the built up location, it is unlikely the site will be affected by signal blackout issues in the future and the presence of local amenities and residential dwellings would likely facilitate swift action should there be emergencies in close proximity of the site in the future.

No objections have been received during the consultation or by Stapleford Town Council. It is therefore considered that the Council should not raise any objection to the removal of this payphone.

Conclusion

No objections have been raised to the removal of 3 payphones (Awworth Lane, Cossall, Festival Inn Kiosk, Ilkeston Road, Trowell and Pinfold lane, Stapleford) and therefore it is recommended that the Council does not object to the removal of these payphones. Whilst an objection to the removal of the payphone on Church Street, Eastwood has been raised the low usage of this phone box with 4 calls in the last 12 months suggests this is not an essential facility for the area and the removal of the phone box should not be objected to.

Interest has been shown by Local Councillors or Parish/Town Councils to adopt the remaining 3 payphones for defibrillators to be installed within them. Whilst the success of any applications for these to be adopted cannot be guaranteed, these Councillors and Parish/Town Councils have been notified of the procedure to follow.

Overall it is considered that taking into account the usage of the each of the payphones and the built up areas in which they are located that the Council should not raise an objection to any of the proposed payphone removals.