

<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<b>PLANNING COMMITTEE</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM: 5</b>
<b>DATE OF MEETING:</b>	<b>17<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2019</b>	<b>CATEGORY: (See Notes)</b> <b>RECOMMENDED</b>
<b>REPORT FROM:</b>	<b>(STRATEGIC DIRECTOR OF SERVICE DELIVERY)</b>	<b>OPEN</b>
<b>MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:</b>	<b>CHRIS SMITH EXT:5924</b> <b>chris.smith@southderbyshire.gov.uk</b>	<b>DOC:</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>BT PUBLIC PAYPHONE REMOVALS</b>	
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	<b>SWADLINCOTE, MIDWAY, OVERSEAL, MICKLEOVER, CALDWELL, WOODVILLE, MIDWAY, NEWHALL, WILLINGTON, REPTON, FINDERN, HILTON, ETWALL.</b>	<b>TERMS OF REFERENCE: (See Notes)</b>

## **1.0 Recommendations**

- 1.1 That the Committee approves the feedback of objections (to BT) received from Etwall and Willington Parish Councils for the BT public payphones to remain at Castle Way Willington, Main Street, Etwall (outside John Port School) and Bellfield Road, Etwall.
- 1.2 That the Committee approves the agreed response to the proposed removal of the other eleven BT public payphones without any objection.

## **2.0 Purpose of the Report**

- 2.1 To provide the Committee with details of the BT public payphones that are scheduled to be removed, and to inform of the objections that have been received by Willington and Etwall Parish Council.

## **3.0 Detail**

- 3.1 There are 14 public payphones in South Derbyshire that have been identified and proposed for removal by BT under the 90 Day consultation process. These phones are detailed in Appendix 1 with the number of calls each one has made over the previous 12 months. At the end of the consultation period South Derbyshire District Council must respond to either object, adopt or approve the scheduled removal of each payphone.
- 3.2 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. As long as there is network coverage, its now possible to call the emergency services, even when there is no credit or no coverage for your own provider.
- 3.3 Parish Council Clerks and District Councillors were informed of the consultation and the list of phone boxes that were scheduled for removal on 6<sup>th</sup> November and asked

for any objections or plans to adopt a kiosk to be returned to the Communities Manager at South Derbyshire District Council by 29<sup>th</sup> November 2019.

- 3.4 BT also placed consultation notices on the relevant payphones. The notice on the phone boxes instructed any individuals with any comments regarding the proposed removal to contact the Local Authority.
- 3.5 By the deadline of 29<sup>th</sup> November 2019, objections were received by Etwall and Willington Parish Councils. No comments have been received from members of the public. The objections received from the Parish Councils were as follows:

**PCO Kiosk 732221 Outside John Port School, Main Street, Etwall Derby**

‘We feel that it should be retained for emergency purposes. The centre of Etwall has extremely poor or intermittent mobile phone signal and the only defibrillator in the village is sited across the road from this telephone kiosk. It is essential that this telephone kiosk remains in case of a situation whereby there is no mobile signal and a call has to be made urgently to the emergency services in order to gain an access code to the defibrillator cabinet. The fact that the telephone kiosk was across the road was one of the deciding factors in finalising the location of the defibrillator therefore we feel that it should remain’.

**PCO Kiosk 732418 Belfield Road, Etwall, Derby**

‘The telephone is situated in an area where there are a large number of elderly residents and this provides a back-up means of communication should telephones or mobile phones be out of order. We would therefore ask that it be retained’.

**PCO PCO1 Castle Way, Willington Derby**

‘The objection from Willington Parish Council is due to the high usage (98 calls in last 12 months) that the Kiosk still gets. People are obviously still using the phone there and if removed it may take away a key form of communication for some people’.

#### **4.0 Financial Implications**

- 4.1 There are no financial implications related to this report

#### **5.0 Corporate Implications**

- 5.1 It is the District Council’s responsibility to respond to the consultation and analyse any comments received from interested parties to see if they agree or disagree with any them.

#### **6.0 Community Impact**

- 6.1 Each payphone has had a consultation notice attached to it since 5<sup>th</sup> September and communities were invited to make comment to the Local Authority regarding the scheduled removals. No comments have been received.

## **7.0 Conclusions**

- 7.1 With the increased use of mobile phones, the use of public payphones has declined by over 90% in the last 10 years. There has been no public response to the removal notices located on the payphones, however three objections have been received from Willington and Etwall Parish Councils.

## **8.0 Background Papers**

- 8.1 Appendix 1- Consultation letter from BT, and consultation feedback form which includes the list of 14 payphones scheduled for removal, comments received, and draft responses based on comments received back.