

Briefing Notes

Social and Community Overview and
Scrutiny Committee

8th September 2008

This note contains information to keep Members informed of matters relating to the work of the Cabinet but where no decisions from Members are needed.

If Members have questions relating to matters shown, they are asked to contact the Officer indicated.

BT's proposal to re-align payphone provision to meet consumer demand.

BT gave notice to the council on 12th May that it was starting a 90 day consultation from 8th June 2008 to 6 September 2008 on proposals to remove 9 public payphones in borough of Cheltenham.

Phil Bennett and Jane Milton from BT Payphones attended the committee meeting on 5th June to provide some background to the proposals. The committee resolved to consult with Parish Councils and communities affected and co-ordinate a response on behalf of the Council.

An email was sent to parish councils, relevant ward councillors, statutory agencies and community organisations inviting them to comment on the proposals. Only one response was received from Gloucestershire Constabulary.

However, Jane Milton subsequently supplied the annual useage figures for each of the payphones which indicated that the most of the 9 had moderate to high useage and therefore we would claim that they were used by the local community.

The Ofcom guidance recommends that the relevant public body publishes its First Notification setting out its draft decision and sends a copy to the Secretary of State. We did this on 15th August with a closing date on Friday 29th August.

We now plan to issue our final notification in the week commencing 1st September. Our recommendations for each payphone and the reasoning are attached overleaf.

For further information contact

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Telephone Number	Address	Post Code	Agree/ Object	Comments/Reasons
01242222618	1pco, London Rd, Charlton Kings, Cheltenham	GL52 6HY	Object	High usage from local community (1571 calls made per year)
01242222633	Pco1, Springbank Rd, Cheltenham	GL51 0NJ	Object	High usage from local community (1487 calls made per year) Located in area of multiple deprivation
01242521139	Junction Of Willersley Rd &, Pco1, Robert Burns Ave, Cheltenham	GL51 6NU	Object	Moderate usage from the local community (557 calls made per year)
01242521515	Junction Of Windermere Rd &, 1pco, Alma Rd, Cheltenham	GL51 3LS	Object	Moderate usage from the local community (524 calls made per year) High percentage of over 75s in local community (over 19%)
01242521612	Pco1, Windyridge Road, Cheltenham	GL50 4RA	Object	Low usage from local community (19 calls made per year)
01242521650	Corner Of Cowper Road And, Pco1, Princess Elizabeth Way, Cheltenham	GL51 7PZ	Object	High usage from local community (1019 calls made per year) Located in area of multiple deprivation
01242526316	Junction Of Shaw Green Lane, Pco1, Bowbridge Lane, Prestbury, Cheltenham	GL52 3BL	Agree	Not used by local community (No calls made per year)
01242526867	Pco1, Beeches Rd, Charlton Kings, Cheltenham	GL53 8NX	Object	Moderate usage from the local community (484 calls made per year) High percentage of over 75s in local community (over between 12.7 and 18.9%)
01452856083	Layby A40 Eastbound, 1pco, Cheltenham Road East, Gloucester	GL3 1JX	Object	Low usage (4 calls made per year) But in a lay-by on the A40 dual carriageway between Cheltenham and Gloucester therefore needed in case of emergency.

Statement from Gloucestershire Constabulary - Cheltenham and Tewkesbury Division

The police are an emergency service and as such they value all methods that enable the public with emergencies and issues to resolve the opportunity to contact the police or any of the emergency services.

Any removal of public phone boxes would impact on the public's ability to call for assistance regardless of where the telephone box is located, rural or urban.