

Agenda Item 15 July Meeting

We have received an approach from a resident regarding the 'phone box at the junction of Eastbourne RD (A259) and Gilbert's Drive.

Inside is a notice dated November 2024 to notify the local authority within 90 days if the box is still required.

I registered an interest in acquiring the box.

The following response was received:

I can confirm that East Dean and Friston Parish Council are eligible to adopt a kiosk.

In terms of availability...

Kiosk Number: 01323423117

Kiosk Address: Opp East Dean Garage On A259 Pco1 Gilberts Drive East Dean Eastbourne, BN20 0DL

Kiosk Type: K6 (Not Listed)



Status: Unfortunately we are not able to consider adoption of this kiosk at this time. This kiosk currently houses a live payphone service and BT are subject to the OFCOM Universal Service obligation (USO) which states that if a kiosk is considered to

be “Last at Site” (more than 400 metres’ walking distance from the next public pay-phone), which 01323423117 is, there are 4 criteria that need to be adhered to before we can consider removing the telephone mechanism and offering up for adoption:

- There must be full mobile coverage from all 3 of the main UK operators (EE, O2 and Vodafone- Three)
- The kiosk in question must have had less than 52 calls made within a 12-month period.
- It’s not in a protected location (i.e. accident blackspot / high-frequency suicide location)
- No other evidence of reasonable user need.

Kiosk Number: 01323423117 has made 76 calls within the past 12 month period and does not have sufficient mobile coverage.

We may eventually fall below the 52 calls p.a. requirement (we currently have 1.5 people per week using it), but we are very unlikely to satisfy the mobile connection criterion, at least in the short term.

Most boxes adopted by parish councils are used for defibrillators or book hubs where free exchange of books can take place. More adventurous uses have been a mini art installation with stained glass inserts and mini-museums – sometimes using the handset for information/local life stories. It may be worth considering if mobile connectivity changes

Proposal: Information only. I have advised the enquirer.

Phil Burgess
Clerk to East Dean and Friston