

# Stow-on-the-Wold Town Council



Stow Youth Centre, Fosseway,  
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Town Clerk & RFO: Claire Evans

25 October 2023

Joseph Walker  
Community Partnership Officer  
Planning Department  
Cotswold District Council

By email: [joseph.walker@cotswold.gov.uk](mailto:joseph.walker@cotswold.gov.uk)

Dear Joseph

## **British Telecommunications Consultation on the adoption of the BT telephone kiosk on the Fosseway, Stow on the Wold**

Council is writing to formally express its opposition to the proposed decommissioning of the public telephone box at the Fountain Junction in Stow on the Wold and its adoption by the Battlefield Trust to use as mini museum of the Civil War.

According to the latest statistics from BT, this telephone box is being regularly used by residents and visitors who need to make urgent or emergency calls or do not have access to mobile phones. The number of calls in the previous 12 months was 50.

Council notes that telephone boxes with fewer than 52 calls in 12 months are generally able to be decommissioned. However Council believes that several factors make this location exceptional and justify retaining the telephone box, and asks that the following be taken into account:

- Stow on the Wold has significant and increasing numbers of residents and visitors in older age groups who are less likely to use mobile phones.
- There is no other public telephone box within 400m of this one. The nearest is approximately 600m away on Sheep Street.
- The telephone box is by a junction of three main roads where several traffic accidents have occurred recently.

Removing this phone box would deprive residents, visitors and other members of the public of a vital service and potentially endanger their safety.

Council appreciates the cultural and educational value of creating a mini museum of the Civil War, and supports the idea of preserving and showcasing our local history.

Council believes there is another telephone box in the town that could be more suitable for this purpose. There is a telephone box on Park Street outside The Bell Inn. This would be more suitable because it is located close to another telephone box across the road on Sheep Street so it would not affect the availability of public telephones in the area, and secondly it is close to the Mangersbury Road car park and therefore on the town's visitor route. It would also be in a nicer environment next to the Bell Green as opposed to the busy road junction where the proposed box is located.

Council would like to suggest that the Park Street telephone box be considered as an alternative location for the museum project.

We hope that the Town Council's views will be taken into account by Cotswold District Council and BT.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Claire Evans', written in a cursive style.

Claire Evans  
Town Clerk and RFO