

SBSBC/3

ARUN DISTRICT COUNCIL				
No.	AL	54	09	
Received				

DESIGN and ACCESS STATEMENT

Planning Application:-

Re-Siting of the Barnham Signal Box at Olivers Meadow, Westergate

The attached application is for the recycling of a locally historic building to ensure its continued use and existence as a part of the history of the Six Villages and for its importance as a part of the nations railway heritage.

The Barnham signal box was built in 1911 and is the last remaining Edwardian signal box of its type following a fire which raised to the ground its 'sister' box at Christs Church, near Horsham.

The Barnham signal box is one of the oldest working buildings in the area and is almost the last remnant of the Barnham Junction with its sidings and warehouses. Over the years it has become a visiting place for local children inspiring many class work projects and activities.

In April 2008 Network Rail announced the demolition of the Barnham signal box as part of the £23 million re-development of the station. It is the intention of those involved to re-site the signal box at Olivers Meadow, Westergate.

The main purpose of the re-sited signal box will be to act as the headquarters and club house to the Bognor Regis Model Railway Club. The Club has existed at the Olivers Meadow site in excess of ten years. Today it meets in a converted garage and container, both of which are totally unsuitable for this expanding group of enthusiasts. The Club will ensure that the building is fit for purpose and at the same time continues to be available for local schools to visit; thus retaining its educational status within the community. Through club meetings and 'Community Centre Open Days' the Club will additionally ensure the building is available to other railway enthusiasts and interested members of the public.

Several areas, at Olivers Meadow, were considered for the siting of the signal box and subject to a number of criteria. The site, as outlined in this application, was chosen for the following reasons:

- a) Ease of access. A pathway is already in existence and this will only need minor modification.
The closeness of the site to vehicle access was also a major consideration due to the transport of large models.
- b) Nearness to existing utilities, drains, water and electricity
- c) Use of an area previous without any discernable use that was becoming overgrown and an 'eyesore'.
- d) Coverage by street lighting for safety and security especially during the winter months.

It is the intention of those concerned that the signal box will eventually be enclosed by a security fence. In, additionally a further camera(s) will also be added to the CCTV system to provide additional security.

Pruning of trees, situated on the bank behind the signal box location will need to be undertaken. It is not the stance of those concerned that any of the existing trees will be removed. It is recognised that further screening, by the planting of shrubs, may be necessary to fill the 'gaps between existing trees and to screen the building in the winter months.