

**WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL
INFRASTRUCTURE CONSULTATION**

DATE: 31/07/2009

FROM: Jamie Brown **TO: Arun District Council**
FAO: S. Leeson

SUBJECT: AL/54/09 -The re-sitting of Barnham Signal Box to recreation ground at Olivers Meadow, from its present position at Barnham Railway Station. Building to be used as a clubhouse and meeting place for Bognor Regis Model Railway Club. Works include erection of fencing.

Aldingbourne Community Sports Centre, Olivers Meadow, Aldingbourne, West Sussex

CONSULTATION DATE: 25/06/2009

RECOMMENDATION:

Advice	☒	Modification	☐	More Information	☐
Objection	☐	No Objection	☐	Refusal	☐

S106 contribution: £ N/A

The Highway aspect of this application has been dealt with in accordance with the Development Control Scheme protocol for small scale proposals which include up to 5 residential units or extensions to single units accessed from roads that do not form part of the Strategic Road Network (SRN). As such the comments provided by Local Development should be considered to be advice only, with respect to this planning application.

This response comprises of the views of West Sussex County Council. The highways and archaeological implications of this proposal have been considered and these views are incorporated within this response.

Highways

West Sussex County Council was consulted previously on Highway Matters for this location under the same planning application number on the 8th July 2009. Further to that response, I have further advice to provide from a highways perspective.

This proposal has been considered by means of a desktop study, using the information and plans submitted with this application, in conjunction with other available WSCC map information. A site visit can be arranged on request.

A Traffic Management Plan with details of the move should be submitted to the Western Area Office, this should include details of any highway infrastructure that could be affected as a result of the proposed re-siting of the signal box.

Archaeology

Summary and Recommendations

The proposed relocation site is situated in the vicinity of a known archaeological site, but it is not considered likely in this instance that the proposals will carry archaeological implications within the application area. The survival of the historic Signal Box building, in its re-located position, is welcomed.

No objection is made to the proposals, subject to archaeological safeguards, as set out below, and to the recommended Informative.

It is recommended that the existing Signal Box, being of industrial archaeological interest, should be the subject of a basic industrial archaeological record, accessible to the local community and County Council Historic Environment Record database.

Comments

The proposed relocation site

The application area is located about 90 metres to the west of the site of a flint scatter of mesolithic date (8500-4500 BC), reported in 2000 and situated in the garden of one of the houses at Croft Cottages.

The finds of prehistoric worked flint tools and flakes probably represent the debris from a year-round or seasonal camp site of a hunter/gatherer community, manufacturing tools as needed for hunting and food processing. Such "flint scatters" and the camp sites were not usually very large, and at a distance of 90 metres from the known finds, the application area will very probably have lain well outside the focus of prehistoric activity. While it is always possible that other such "flint scatters" may have existed in the close vicinity of the known finds, there is at present no reason to believe so.

In historical times, the application area would have been situated in the fields well to the rear of the core of the hamlet of Westergate, strung out along the road frontage of Westergate Street. No other archaeological finds from the application area.

Accordingly there are no present reasons for considering that the relocation of the signal box would have any archaeological impact at its proposed new site at Oliver's Meadow.

The existing signal box structure

In itself, the Barnham Signal Box has considerable industrial archaeological interest as a rarity of its period (1911). The proposed retention of the Signal Box building, by means of its re-location, is welcomed. Drawings of the existing Signal Box provide a good record of the building's external appearance.

With regard to the former use of the structure, the existing Signal Box was until very recently a functioning building, and it will be important to seek to ensure that before its re-location, a basic industrial archaeological record is made, for educational use, for the local community, and for reference of the users of the re-located building and West Sussex archaeological database, of the workings of the Signal Box.

This might most readily be achieved through a visual camcorder record, with description by voice, of the interior of the existing Signal Box. The applicant might wish to consider approaching the Model Railway Club and Sussex Industrial Archaeology Society, and Network Rail (with regard to staff familiar with the Signal Box controls) to assist the applicant in making this record.

For this purpose it is recommended that an Informative (as stated below) be attached to planning permission.

If the LPA are minded to approve this application, a condition securing The Traffic Management Plan as stated above should be included.

INFORMATIVE

The applicant is encouraged to seek to ensure that an industrial archaeological record (e.g. video/ DVD using camcorder and descriptive voice-over) will be made of the existing Signal Box building and its workings, prior to removal of the existing mechanical controls and prior to the Signal Box' re-location. Copies of the record and of existing drawings of the Signal Box should be deposited with Bognor Regis Library, West Sussex Record Office, and the West Sussex County Council Historic Environment Record.

Jamie Brown
Local Development