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Booknookems - Telephone Box, St Peter's Square, Emsworth -
Proposed replacement of the existing telephone box to a K6 British Red Telephone Box.
Heritage Statement

Emsworth is a small coastal town situated to the east of the town of Havant, on the border of Hampshire and Sussex. Up to the 19th century it was famous for its oyster fishing fleet and still has historical nods to this legacy. Emsworth is now a Conservation Area which encompasses the older part of the waterside town, which lies to the south of the A259, between the two historic mill ponds. Emsworth was first designated as a Conservation Area by Havant Borough Council in 1970, as an area which has special architectural or historic interest, the character and appearance of which it is desirable to preserve and enhance. Today the town's historic character and waterside atmosphere continues to make it an attractive place to live.

The Site

Booknookems is a telephone box situated to the west of St Peter's Square, in the town centre of Emsworth. Whilst the modern phone box could be considered 'iconic' due to the retirement of phone boxes, it is out of character and does not enhance or 'fit in' with its surroundings. The phone box is unsightly, has graffiti and is in need of repair. St Peter's Square is characterised by many historical features buildings resonate their Georgian heritage and there are several iconic monuments with the square. Most notably the WW2 war memorial bus shelter, traditional red post boxes and Georgian style street lighting.

The Proposal

The proposal is to remove the current modern telephone box and replace it with a traditional K6 Red Telephone Box, a British icon with its own heritage to complement its surroundings and to match the traditional red post boxes, also within the same area.





The traditional British red telephone kiosk can still be seen in many places throughout the UK. Red telephone boxes are considered part of British heritage and date back to 1924, where these would have been seen in many towns and villages. The proposed telephone box is a K6 model (Kiosk No. 6) and was designed in 1935 by British designer and architect Sir Giles Gilbert Scott. Although it is the most famous phone box design to date, this was actually the sixth version of the red phone box to hit our streets and has become a style icon of British heritage.

The current telephone box is being used as very successful second hand book swap - Booknookems. This community service not only allows the community to pick up a free book to their liking but additionally they can drop off any unwanted books at anytime of the day or night. The free-flow of the community using booknookems allows locals to interact and chat and be sociable with one another. This is a service that has become invaluable to residents, allowing the reuse of books, reducing waste and encouraging social engagement within the local community.

Assessment of Impact and Mitigation

By replacing the current modern telephone box with a British heritage icon, this undoubtedly improves the street scene of St Peter's Square. The current open telephone box is untidy and shelving haphazard to protect books from the weather. The Booknookems service is well loved and used but all who use this service agree that it is quite unsightly. By replacing the existing telephone box with the K6 model, it will not only enhance the street view but will also offer practical solutions to keep this community book service running. The proposed K6 telephone box includes a door providing a weather proof environment to reduce damage to books. Shelving can also be designed accordingly to improve the appearance even further and all contained within an iconic, world renowned British telephone box.

In conclusion, to add to this the original K6 refurbished British red telephone box would not be considered at all detrimental to the heritage of Emsworth town centre and will enhance the appearance of the street scene whilst continuing to provide a well used and loved service by Booknookems.