

Dear Nosterfield End residents,

As some of you may be aware, Shudy Camps Parish Council purchased the telephone Box in Nosterfield End a couple of years ago with a view to making it a local information point. The telephone box base has been levelled and money was sought from Cambridgeshire Highways in 21/22 to improve pedestrian access to the telephone box to make it safer to use. As you know there has been extensive erosion of the highway verge which poses a very real hazard to people accessing/exiting the box.

Unfortunately the Parish's bid for Highways funding was unsuccessful and leaves us in a bit of a quandary as to what to do next. The purpose of this note is to highlight a few of the options we have considered and to seek your views on how best to proceed.

### **Options**

1. Try to get funding again next year. This is an option but given the County Council's budget constraints and priorities the proposal is not likely to score highly in future evaluations.
2. Ask Highways to restore the verge to its original state, thereby improving user safety. This is likely to be considered low priority and hence could also take a long time to be approved. Although straightforward, work on Public Highways has to be done using approved suppliers. A partial road closure will be required which in itself is expensive (roughly £1000).
3. Rotate the box so that the door does not open onto the road. This would require heavy duty lifting equipment (roughly £1000 to hire) and could result in breaking the box. Although rotating the box might give safer access there would still be a risk without having concrete kerbs installed to separate vehicles from pedestrian access. Fund raising would probably be necessary to progress this option as the costs are likely to run to several thousand pounds.
4. Move the box to an alternate, safer location in Nosterfield End. As with option 3, this would be costly and risk breaking the box. We would need to have private land to place it on, otherwise we have issues with the County Council again. Also a substantial concrete foundation will be required. As above, fund raising would need to be considered to progress this option as the costs are likely to run to several thousand pounds.
5. Provide a new notice board in a suitable location for residents. We understand that this was an option considered several years ago but was superseded when the telephone box became available.
6. We could sell the phone box. We believe that they are much sought after as a garden ornament and the money could be used to purchase the notice board for residents.

There may well be other options worth considering, and we would like to ask you as Nosterfield End residents what you think. We would welcome your views and feedback, either via the Shudy\_Chat WhatsApp group or via the email addresses given below.

Thank you,

Cllrs Dave Elliott/Paul Malins

Shudy Camps Parish Council

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