

## **Mobile Citizens, Mobile Consumers – Response to Ofcom’s Consultation**

The spread of mobile telephone usage appears to have had an impact on public kiosks. However, in more rural areas these are valued for use by the less affluent; and, especially, because mobile signals are unreliable or absent in our hills. SSDC has resisted BT’s attempts at widespread removal of kiosks but recognises the impact of mobile ‘phones. It resolved on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2008:

### **RESOLVED (unanimous)**

- (i) that the Council’s formal response to BT’s proposed pay phone closures in South Shropshire be compiled by the Head of Planning and Building Control to include the representations received from Parish/Town Councils in South Shropshire together with the additional representations raised by Members in the foregoing debate;**
- (ii) that the Council’s representations include highlighting Council’s grave concern over the discrepancy in call charges between the rural and urban areas (in rural areas the minimum call charge is 20p with a £1 connection fee ; in urban areas there is a flat charge of 40p within no connection fee) and the minimum credit/debit card charge referred to; and**
- (iii) that the Council expresses its grave concern at the further erosion of public service provision in the deeply rural area of South Shropshire with poor alternative network coverage and restates its view that the Public Service Obligation should also apply to mobile phone companies.**

Regards

Councillor P. F. Phillips  
Chairman of the Communications Working Group