

Moving ahead *Sending the right signals at Barnham*



Barnham signal box formally closed in November 2008. Just over a year later, the historic signal box was moved by low-loader to Aldingbourne where it will be used as a community centre.

We've supported the relocation of Barnham signal box in preparation for its re-use as a community centre.

In 2008, Barnham signalling centre was opened featuring a state-of-the-art signalling system using modern computerised systems and processors to control signalling in the area.

This renewal meant that the original 100 year old Barnham signal box would be removed from service. The Save Barnham Signal Box Campaign (SBSC) was set up by the local community with the aim of preserving the historic structure.

The SBSC group identified a site on the Aldingbourne Community Centre land where they could use the signal box structure for the local Bognor Regis Model Railway Club.

We agreed with the SBSC group to provide funding that was equivalent to the demolition costs and that any additional costs to transport the signal box would be raised by SBSC. We arranged for BCS Design and BCM Construction to assess the feasibility of removing the signal box in sections and then re-erecting it on the new site. We decided it would be less risky to move the whole structure in one piece.

The signal box then made the three-hour journey across town and by lunchtime, reached the new site and the low-loader with its historic cargo was skilfully manoeuvred into place to allow another crane to gently place the signal box onto its new foundation walls. The bond was made and the day a success.

The restoration work will now continue in preparation for a grand opening planned for the summer of 2011, 100 years after the box was first commissioned.

The signal box was originally built in 1911 by the London, Brighton and South Coast Railway with 75 levers using pulleys, wheels, and long lengths of steel wires to control points and signals.

Restoration work will continue in preparation for a grand opening planned for 2011.

In November 2008, we formally closed Barnham's historic signal box in the early hours of a Saturday morning. We removed internal equipment and jacked up the remaining structure very gently onto a special steel cradle ready for the move, on 6 December 2009. We had to lift the five-tonne structure by crane from Barnham station's middle platform and put it onto a large low-loader. The residents of Barnham watched the signal box proceed slowly across the town, as each of the nearly 100 telephone cables along the route were lifted clear of the roof one by one. National television networks were on hand to record events.

1911

The Barnham signal box was originally built in 1911, and is due to be re-opened as a community centre 100 years later.

