

Brentham Society Advice Sheet:

METER BOXES



There is no requirement for a planning application for an external utility meter box, however intrusive piping along the walls above ground level does need an application and may be refused so contractors should be asked to position the meters so that this is not needed.

BACKGROUND:

Contractor CADENT are in the process of replacing the gas mains pipes under Brentham streets and residents will have been advised in advance of works. The work will entail connecting the new pipes to meters inside the property.

Cadent hope to reconnect to the existing meters in most houses, but where, because of the position of the pipe work in the house, it is impossible to thread the new pipes from the road to the meter a new meter will be installed at the point where gas main enters the house.

If it is not possible for Cadent to connect the new gas pipes to your existing meter you may need a new meter installed on the exterior of your house. The standard type is a white box which can look obtrusive, particularly against brick walls.

Cadent contractors have been told this a conservation area and been advised that they should have a supply of conservation quality type meter boxes available but not all engineers on site seem to be aware of this.

WHAT TO DO:

You should talk to the engineer when they approach you about the solution for your property and explain you want a conservation quality meter box supplied if they must provide a new external meter.

Conservation meter boxes are available that are sunk into the ground, and this is the type recommended by the Brentham Society and other conservation bodies. Cadent will install the basic part of these meter boxes but place a temporary lid on top. You must contact your supplier to fit the lid, and they will charge a fee for this. It is advisable to check with your supplier that they supply these. We cannot force residents to use these meter boxes because they are not controlled.

CONCLUSION:

The Brentham Society has little control over meter boxes, media boxes, lighting and road signage. They all have exemption from the usual planning processes although residents are expected to "consult" about the best way approach to installations.

See overleaf for examples of fitted conservation quality meter boxes

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Figure 1

A completed conservation quality meter box which has less impact on the appearance of your property.



Figure 2

A conservation quality meter box with the temporary cover which will be fitted by Cadent. This needs to be replaced with a permanent cover by your gas supplier who will charge a fee. You should contact your supplier about this if you are considering this option.

For further advice contact advice@brentham.com