



## **Daventry District Council**

### **Payphone Removals**

#### **Decision Statement**

**30<sup>th</sup> September 2020**

## **1. Background**

- 1.1 The Council has received a request from BT to remove nine kiosks at various locations across the District. The Council has delegated powers to determine such applications in certain circumstances: of the nine boxes, one fell to be determined under delegated powers.
- 1.2 Part 5 (Responsibility for Functions) of the Council's constitution delegates decisions enabling the decommissioning of telephony equipment to the Executive Director (Business) where:
  - (a) There is no objective need for the telephony; and
  - (b) The box is either not a traditional red box (K6) or would be adopted by a parish council or other suitable body.
- 1.3 The remaining eight remained to be determined by the Council's Strategy Group. This will be done by a report to its meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2020.
- 1.4 On 28<sup>th</sup> August 2020 the Council sent an email to all relevant parish councils and district councillors, with a copy of the 'First Notification'. This included all of the boxes, i.e. those to be determined by the Strategy Group and those under delegated powers. .
- 1.5 BT posted notices on the kiosks, inviting anyone with views to notify the District Council.
- 1.6 A number of responses were received as set out in the Final Notification.
- 1.7 It is a requirement that the Council reply in writing to BT within 90-days giving their comments or any objections received from the local community.

## **2 Consideration**

- 2.1 In the report to Strategy Group concerning this matter (January 2017), prior to the delegation arrangement, a number of considerations were put forward for

determining the applications that were before that meeting. Whilst these were not made binding on any future determinations by the Executive Director (Business), they are useful considerations in assessing (a) above:

- Responses from parish councils, including if they wish to adopt the box;
- Responses from residents;
- Any information received about poor signals for mobile phones in the locality;
- Any views that the phone could serve a useful purpose in an emergency e.g. alongside the canal network; and
- The level of usage, broadly speaking if a phone is used for more than about 50 times in the last year it could have a useful social purpose.

2.2 The kiosk which is considered to fall to be determined under delegated powers is listed below:

01604 505411 Creaton, PCO KIOSK 411 0/S Telephone Exchange Welford Road

2.3 Where responses were received during the consultation, they have been summarised in the Final Notification. In coming to its decision on each box, the Council has taken into account the comments received.

2.4 The Final Notification is attached

### 3.0 Decision

**Having considered the proposals in the light of the terms approved by Council in February 2017, I am satisfied that the Council should respond with 'agree' to the proposals from BT to remove the telephone box from the box listed in 2.2 above.**

Report written by.

Signed:.....Date: 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Richard Wood, Local Strategy Manager

Report approved and decision made by

Signed: Date: 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Simon Bowers, Executive Director (Business)

# Final Notification

## Notification under section 49(4) of the Communications Act 2003

Decision by Daventry District Council in response to a proposal by British Telecommunications plc for the removal of public call boxes pursuant to Part 2 of the Schedule to a Direction published by Ofcom on 14 March 2006 ('the Direction').

1. Daventry District Council, in accordance with section 49(4) of the Communications Act 2003 ('the Act'), hereby make the following decision in response to a proposal by British Telecommunications plc for the removal of public call boxes pursuant to Part 2 of the Direction ("the Final Notification").
2. The decision is set out in the schedule to this notification
3. The effect of, and Daventry District Council reasons for making, the decision is set out in the Schedule to this Notification.
4. Daventry District Council considers that the decision complies with the requirements of sections 45 to 50 of the Act, as appropriate and relevant to the proposals.
5. In making the decision, Daventry District Council has considered and acted in accordance with the six community requirements in section 4 of the Act.
6. A copy of this Notification has been sent to the Secretary of state in accordance with section 50(1)(b) of the Act.
7. The Schedule to this Notification shall form part of this Notification.

Simon Bowers

Executive Director (Business), Daventry District Council

30<sup>th</sup> September 2020

# Schedule

Decision by Daventry District Council in response to a proposal by British Telecommunications plc for the removal of public call boxes pursuant to Part 2 of the Schedule to a Direction published by Ofcom on 14 March 2006 ('the Direction').

## General Comments

The following Schedule provides Daventry District Council's (DDC) response to this BT consultation and is informed by the comments received from the parish council and on the Council's own research.

Key to the Responses

Column D sets out baseline information for the consideration of each box. It identifies:

- the type of box i.e. modern design or red K6 box
- if the box is listed
- if the box is within a conservation area
- if there is a Village Design Statement (VDS) and if so if it says anything about the box
- if there is a Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) and if so if it says anything about the box

Column E

Makes an assessment of whether or not the box should be retained and includes comments from the parish council and local residents, and if there is any interest in adopting the box.

Column F sets out the decision.

## Conservation and General Issues

Red phone boxes are instantly recognisable internationally as an iconic design symbol of 20<sup>th</sup> century British architecture. The red K6 phone boxes were designed by the architect Sir Giles Gilbert Scott (1880-1960) and were produced in 1935 to commemorate the Silver Jubilee of King George V. This model was the first public telephone to be installed nationwide. Gilbert-Scott is also famous for designing Battersea Power Station, Liverpool Anglican Cathedral, Cambridge University Library and orchestrating the repairs to the House of Commons following WWII bomb damage. As such, he is a very important British architect and preserving examples of his work, especially those as iconic as red phone boxes, is vitally important.

**Due to the importance of the Red K6 phone boxes, the District Council objects to the removal of all of these within the District unless there are proposals by third parties to adopt them, thereby securing their future.**

The District Council also reminds BT of the following planning policy context, which will apply where these issues are referred to in the Schedule table:

National Planning Policy Framework:

190. Local planning authorities should identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset that may be affected by a proposal (including by development affecting the setting of a heritage asset) taking account of the available evidence and any necessary expertise. They should take this into account when considering the impact of a proposal on a heritage asset, to avoid or minimise any conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the proposal.

193. When considering the impact of a proposed development on the significance of a designated heritage asset, great weight should be given to the asset's conservation (and the more important the asset, the greater the weight should be). This is irrespective of whether any potential harm amounts to substantial harm, total loss or less than substantial harm to its significance.

West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy:

BN5 designated and non-designated heritage assets and their settings will be conserved and enhanced in recognition of their individual and cumulative significance and contribution to west Northamptonshire's local distinctiveness and sense of place.

In environments where valued heritage assets are at risk, the asset and its setting will be appropriately conserved and managed.

Schedule of Responses

A	B	C	D	E	F
Telephone Number	Address	Post Code	Type/Listed/Cons Area.  VDS/NP	Comments/Reasons	Response to BT
01604505411	<p><b>CREATON</b></p> <p>PCO KIOSK 411 0/S TELE.EXCH.</p> <p>WELFORD ROAD NORTHAMPTON</p>	NN6 8NH	<p>Modern Design</p> <p>Not in Conservation Area</p> <p>(adjacent proposed extension).</p> <p>VDS – Yes but no specific mention of telephone box.</p> <p>NDP – Area designated</p>	<p>This is a box of modern design and had not been used in the year prior to the last consultation in autumn 2019 or since.</p> <p>When consulted in 2016, the parish council made the observation that the phone was disconnected.</p> <p>In response to the 2020 consultation, the parish council stated that the phone is still disconnected, and that they have no objections to its removal.</p> <p>Given that no objective need for the box has been identified, its removal can be agreed to.</p>	<b>AGREE</b>