

Clerks to Parish Councils  
Clerks to Town Councils

16 December 2016

Dear Clerk

**BT Public Payphones: provisional view of Shropshire Council with regard to proposed removals by BT**

Thank you very much for any local views you have been able to provide to date, to help Shropshire Council in deciding whether or not to exercise our powers of "local veto" with regard to retention of BT payphones operational in your area. This only applies to the payphones which form part of BT'S proposals for a large scale programme of removals of 214 phone boxes across Shropshire. This includes old style red K6 kiosks and modern style enclosed KX100 and open access style KX400.

The Council's First Notification of provisional view of Shropshire Council on whether to Object to removal of telephony or Consent to permanent withdrawal is detailed on the attached spreadsheet, produced by my colleague Berwyn Murray. We have also included reference to adoptions being considered by parish and town councils, and will now need a firm decision from these councils if at all possible as to whether they definitely wish to adopt. Unless the Council itself has very good reason for wanting to see retention of the service, we will remove our veto in such cases in accordance with local views: arrangements will then be made with BT for the telephony to be removed.

In some instances, we have received objections from local parish and town councils, but as yet await the reasons for the objections being raised. As we do need to provide BT with a clear rationale for our stance, we would very much welcome further information from such councils as to why they wish a specific payphone in their area to remain operational. We also await responses with regard to a number of the 214 payphones, highlighted in red on the spreadsheet. We are recording a provisional view to retain the service to such payphones, and we would be grateful for any feedback to help inform our final decisions.

As you will be aware from previous correspondence via your local Community Enablement Officer, the formal notification from BT of their proposal to permanently remove kiosks and telephony in your area commenced from the date of their formal letter on this matter, which was 7<sup>th</sup> October 2016, and was due to conclude on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2017. I am pleased to say that the Council has sought and received an extension to this consultation period, which means that the final date for receipt by BT of Shropshire Council's decisions as the Local Planning Authority is now 10<sup>th</sup> February 2017. We hope this extra time will be of assistance to you in sharing this letter with your parish or town councils and thus your local community.

Could you please provide your local Community Enablement Officer with any further views on the proposals, **by 4pm on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2017?**

When responding, could parish and town councils also please be as precise as possible on the kiosk to which they are referring, as well as the parish or neighbourhood from which they are responding, giving the telephone number for the payphone as well as the postcode? This will be a great help to us in ensuring we are correctly matching the views to the kiosks. Thank you.

The Council will issue a Final Notification of the decision of Shropshire Council with regard to all the affected payphones during week beginning 6<sup>th</sup> February 2017, following collation of all final views and liaison where appropriate with local Shropshire Council councillors.

In the meantime, Community Enablement Officers will continue to assist you and your local Shropshire Council Councillor in any way that they can, and may be contacted directly or via our mailing address of [Communityenablement@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:Communityenablement@shropshire.gov.uk).

We hope that the attached FAQ, also developed by Berwyn Murray over the course of this consultation to date, will likewise prove useful.

Yours sincerely



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C.C.

Local Shropshire Council Councillors  
Development Management  
Highways  
Historic Environment  
Planning Policy Team  
West Mercia Police (Local Policing Team)

## **BT Payphone Removal Consultation with Shropshire Council 2016/2017 Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Q: What happens to the power supply once the kiosk is removed?**

A: The Power supply is disconnected by the Regional Electricity Company (REC) and made safe/capped.

### **Q: If the kiosk is adopted will BT continue to provide a power supply to the kiosk, as in previous years?**

A: Where there is a power supply to the kiosk (which there usually is) BT will retain responsibility and pay for the supply for the time being, although reserve the right to disconnect the power supply at some point in the future, at which time the adopting Council/Group/Charity would be given the opportunity to take over the supply. If the power supply is for a defibrillator, BT will retain responsibility and pay for the supply for a minimum of 7 years, and reserve the right to disconnect the power supply after that time. Again the adopting Council/Group/Charity would be given the opportunity to take over the supply.

### **Q: If we adopt a modern KX100 Kiosk, can we swap it for a historic red K6 kiosk?**

A: No, BT would not be agreeable to this, nor will removed kiosks be offered on general sale/availability.

### **Q: How many operational kiosks are there in Shropshire?**

A: BT say that at the moment there are somewhere in the region of 350 payphones operational in Shropshire.

### **Q: How many kiosks have been adopted in Shropshire?**

A: 23. BT has sent a specific list of adopted kiosks. If we get a big round of adoptions actually going ahead this time, the intention will be to gauge interest for developing a list to help adopters to keep in touch with each other. This could save on maintenance costs/share costs for work/equipment/paint, or share ideas etc.

### **Q: What further help is there for those considering adoption, who have already notified their Community Enablement Officer?**

A: For those looking at adopting their kiosk, Berwyn Murray will get in touch by email with each clerk to offer assistance where/if needed.