

BT PAYPHONE REMOVAL

New Forest District Council has recently received a consultation notice from British Telecom regarding its programme of intended public payphone removals. BT has identified 48 public payphones in the District which are proposed for removal. The details of those payphones proposed to be removed can be found attached.

BT have placed a 42-day consultation notice on each of the phone-boxes proposed for removal which invites comments from the public to be sent to the Local Planning Authority by 31st October. **I am writing this consultation to request views (from parish councils that these payphones fall within) as to the proposed removal of these payphones.**

These are the key reasons for objection to any removal that we can raise:

- **Usage - no. of calls in the last year**
- **Accident Provision - if the location of the payphone is in an accident blackspot, we may be able to raise objection**
- **The demographic of the area - if surrounding properties are rented or social housing, there may be people on lower incomes who need the payphone**
- **Mobile phone service coverage - if there is poor mobile phone network coverage in the surrounding area to a payphone, we may suggest that the box is a required alternative**

Following the receipt of your comments, we will create a Draft Notice, specifying which payphones we would seek to have retained and which we are happy to see removed, having regard to the considerations stated above. The Draft Notice will then be published and **subject to further consultation** (with parish councils and members) before a Final Notice is again considered before publication and submission to the Secretary of State. This process is to be completed by the end of this year.

BT have a right of appeal to the Secretary of State against any objection raised.

For this first consultation period, please send your responses to nick.whittington@nfdc.gov.uk by no later than 31st October 2016.

In addition, it may be worth studying BT's programme of public payphones adoption for payphones that they may be proposing to remove. If a Parish Council wishes to adopt a payphone in their parish, please inform us, and contact BT to begin this process. Further info can be found here:

<https://business.bt.com/solutions/small-business/communities/adopt-a-kiosk/>