

# First Notification

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

Draft Decision by West Northamptonshire 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. West Northamptonshire Council, in accordance with section 49(4) of the Communications Act 2003 ('the Act'), hereby make the following draft 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 First Notification").
2. The draft decision is set out in the schedule to this notification
3. The effect of, and West Northamptonshire Council's reasons for making, the draft decision is set out in the Schedule to this Notification.
4. West Northamptonshire Council considers that the draft decision complies with the requirements of sections 45 to 50 of the Act, as appropriate and relevant to the proposals.
5. In making the draft decision, West Northamptonshire Council has considered and acted in accordance with the six community requirements in section 4 of the Act.
6. Representations may be made to West Northamptonshire Council about the draft decision by 5.00 p.m. on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2022.
7. A copy of this Notification has been sent to the Secretary of state in accordance with section 50(1)(b) of the Act.
8. The Schedule to this Notification shall form part of this Notification.

Richard Wood  
Interim Head of Planning and Climate Change Policy  
Growth, Climate and Regeneration  
6<sup>th</sup> April 2022

# Schedule

Draft Decision by West Northamptonshire 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 West Northamptonshire draft response to this BT consultation and in its final form will be based on the comments received from individuals and parish councils 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 draft 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	Draft Response to BT
01327 842397	<b>WHILTON</b> MAIN STREET	NN11 2NN	K6 Listed Grade II Not in Conservation Area VDS – Refers to the telephone box NDP – No	This is a red K6 box.  The Parish Council has indicated that it would wish to adopt the box. Given that this would provide long term management of this asset, it is suggested that no objections be raised.	<b>AGREE SUBJECT TO THE BOX BEING ADOPTED BY THE LOCAL COMMUNITY</b>