

# TOLLER PORCORUM PARISH COUNCIL

Full Parish Council meeting | Wednesday 12 March 2025

## Appendix J – P/NOTP/2025/00905 Telephone and box, High Street

Minute reference: 25/03-15.i

**Location:** High Street, Toller Porcorum

**Proposal:** Remove payphone (Call box I.D. 01300320211. (Retain telephone kiosk - to be locked).

**From BT to Dorset Council** (document from Dorset Council's Planning Portal)

**We plan to remove payphones in your area. You can make representations for 90 days, which ends on 13 May 2025**

Dear Chief Planning Officer,

We've identified 12 public payphones in your area that are no longer needed. We've assessed these using the criteria in Ofcom's Review of the telephony universal service obligation. I've attached the list of payphones that we're planning to remove.

The kiosks shown in red are Listed so we propose to remove the telephony and lock the kiosk. To make sure that the local community are fully informed, we've placed notices (including the posting date) on these payphones. I've attached a sample copy.

Communities can 'adopt' phone boxes to turn into something completely different. With payphone usage falling, communities are looking at new ways of using them. Thousands of boxes have been reinvented as cafes, mini-libraries, and defibrillator sites. Communities can adopt most red boxes for just £1. They can also adopt modern glass boxes if they want to house a defibrillator. Visit [bt.com/adopt](http://bt.com/adopt) for more information

**You can make representations in the next 90 days until 13 May 2025**

We'll take account of representations you make about our plans when we're making our final decision. We'll also write to you with the reasons for our decision (we'll also publish the reasons on [www.bt.com/payphones/service](http://www.bt.com/payphones/service)). If you've got any questions or want to make representations, please email us at [btp.authorisation.team@bt.com](mailto:btp.authorisation.team@bt.com).

### Information from Ofcom<sup>1</sup>

The UK's telephone network is currently migrating to Internet Protocol (IP) technology and the old network will be retired by December 2025. This will have a significant effect on the future provision of public call boxes (PCBs) as they will need to be upgraded with new equipment to ensure they still work. Due to these developments Ofcom updated their rules to allow BT and KCOM to remove PCBs that are no longer needed whilst at the same time protecting those boxes on which people still rely.

Under these rules, a PCB cannot be removed if it is the last remaining in an area (i.e. more than 400 metres' walking distance from the next public call box) and it meets one or more of these criteria:

- it is in a place without coverage from all four mobile network providers;
- it is located in an area with a high frequency of accidents or suicides;
- it has made 52 or more calls over the past 12 months; or
- there is other evidence that the box is reasonably needed at the site – for example if it is likely to be relied upon in the event of a local emergency, such as flooding, or if it is used to call helplines.

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<sup>1</sup> Ofcom website, accessed 6.03.25: [www.ofcom.org.uk/make-a-complaint/complain-about-mobile-phone-or-internet-services/other/payphones/](http://www.ofcom.org.uk/make-a-complaint/complain-about-mobile-phone-or-internet-services/other/payphones/) and [www.ofcom.org.uk/phones-and-broadband/telecoms-infrastructure/review-of-the-telephony-universal-service-obligation/](http://www.ofcom.org.uk/phones-and-broadband/telecoms-infrastructure/review-of-the-telephony-universal-service-obligation/)

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## **Toller Porcorum's PCB<sup>2</sup>**

The village PCB is a K6 box and a Grade II Listed Building and is officially registered with Historic England (ref: 1395460). It was given this status for the following reasons:

- An iconic example of industrial design, showing Giles Gilbert Scott's adaptation of Neoclassical forms for a modern technological function
- A good example of the type, having proximity and a good visual relationship with several listed buildings

From Historic England: The K6 telephone kiosk, designed by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott (1880-1960), is one of Britain's most recognisable pieces of industrial design. Around 60,000 were installed between 1936 and 1968 so it's a familiar sight across the country.

## **Adopting a PCB<sup>3</sup>**

Parish Council can adopt the village PCB from BT for the price of £1. Part of the adoption process is disconnecting the service and removing the telephone equipment.

## **Owning a listed PCB<sup>4</sup>**

To alter a listed building in a way that affects its character or appearance as a building of special architectural or historic interest, Listed Building Consent must be applied for from the local planning authority. Carrying out unauthorised works to a listed building is a criminal offence and individuals can be prosecuted. That said, like-for-like repairs, repainting the kiosk in the same colour and works inside the kiosk are unlikely to affect that special interest.

Other works commonly carried out on listed PCBs include alterations or changing the wording in the lit panel at the top of the kiosk to signal a new use. As long as the changes made are in the spirit of the original design, they're unlikely to erode the special interest unduly and therefore unlikely to need listed building consent in the view of Historic England.

Historic England would normally only consider commenting on a listed building consent application for works to a listed PCB if it was being proposed for removal, not for lesser works.

The local planning authority will need to determine each consent application in line with the National Planning Policy Framework. They will consider the kiosk's significance, the impact on group value with visually-related heritage assets and any other relevant planning considerations.

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<sup>2</sup> Historic England website, accessed 6.03.25: [historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1395460](https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1395460) and [historicengland.org.uk/advice/planning/consents/consent-adapting-k6-telephone-kiosks/#When](https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/planning/consents/consent-adapting-k6-telephone-kiosks/#When)

<sup>3</sup> BT website, accessed 6.03.25: [business.bt.com/help/article/phone-line-and-services/payphones/buying-adopting-bt-phone-box/](https://business.bt.com/help/article/phone-line-and-services/payphones/buying-adopting-bt-phone-box/)

<sup>4</sup> Historic England website, accessed: 6.03.25: <https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/planning/consents/consent-adapting-k6-telephone-kiosks/#When> and [historicengland.org.uk/advice/planning/consents/lbc/](https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/planning/consents/lbc/)