

Report on	Public Payphone at Tulnacross Road, Orritor, Cookstown, BT80 9NH - BT Consultation on Proposed Removal
Reporting Officer	P Moffett, Head of Democratic Services
Contact Officer	P Moffett, Head of Democratic Services

Is this report restricted for confidential business?	Yes	
If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	No	x

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	Provide an update on the BT Consultation on the proposed removal of the Public Payphone and Kiosk at Tulnacross Road, Orritor, Cookstown, BT80 9NH
2.0	Background
2.1	The council received correspondence from BT regarding the removal of the above-mentioned public payphone in line with its consultative arrangements. This correspondence was taken at the December 2017 Council meeting.
2.2	The correspondence indicated that, <i>".....the payphone has received little use during the past twelve months we are proposing to permanently remove the service at this location"</i> . The meeting agreed that actual usage in the previous twelve months be sought/obtained before Council formed an opinion on it/took a position, and placed back on a future agenda.
2.3	The Council's Planning Committee, at its January meeting has resolved to serve a Building Preservation Notice (BPN) on the actual kiosk. This is a six-month temporary listing protecting it for a period of time, subject to final assessment being undertaken by Historic Environment Division (HED) of the Department for Communities on whether or not it should be permanently listed. This only deals with the kiosk and not retention of the public payphone.
2.4	A view is being sought from Council on retention of the actual public payphone service.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	BT is operating under OFCOM guidance with respect consultations on the removal of public payphones from service. This guidance states that if a local organisation writes to BT within 90 days to object, setting out their reasons, BT cannot remove the call box. This is known as a 'local veto'. The Council is defined as a 'local organisation'. The correspondence providing notification of the consultation was received by the Council on 15 th November 2017.
3.2	Usage BT has confirmed that the last telephone call from this kiosk was on 2 nd March 2011.
3.3	Council View Members are asked to consider if council should object to the removal of the public payphones and if so, state the reasons for doing so to allow it to exercise the 'local veto'.

4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	<u>Financial & Human Resources Implications</u> Financial: Not applicable Human: Not applicable
4.2	<u>Equality and Good Relations Implications</u> Not applicable
4.3	<u>Risk Management Implications</u> Not applicable
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	To consider and take a view on the proposed removal by BT of the Public Payphone at Tulnacross Road, Orritor, Cookstown, BT80 9NH.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
	Appendix A Correspondence from BT: Public Payphone Tulnacross Rd, Cookstown



Planning Department
Mid Ulster District Council
Cookstown Office
Burn Road
Cookstown
BT80 8DT

15th November 2017

TIME SENSITIVE DOCUMENT – REPLY REQUIRED

Our reference: - JB-02886751270

Dear Sir or Madam,

REMOVAL OF PUBLIC PAYPHONE:

I am writing to advise you that the above mentioned kiosk at 73 Tulnacross Road, Cookstown. BT80 9NH has been damaged beyond economical repair. As our records indicate the payphone has received little use during the past twelve months we are proposing to permanently remove the service at this location.

Our obligation to provide a Universal Service will be maintained, as there are other kiosks within the vicinity. The nearest alternative kiosk is Outside Kildress Inn, 32 Drum Road Cookstown. BT80 8JG, which is 1691 meters away

Before we can remove a kiosk we have an obligation to consult with relevant public bodies on the proposed removal. As part of the consultation process 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. Further information on the consultation process can be found at:

http://stakeholders.ofcom.org.uk/binaries/consultations/uso/statement/removing_callboxes.pdf

If you do not reply, it will be taken that the council and interested parties have no objection to the permanent removal of this payphone.

A notice of our proposal is being displayed in the kiosk and a copy is enclosed with this letter for your information.

If you require any further information or have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me via email at btpcfo@bt.com

Yours faithfully

Jim Blanch

BT Payphones - Commercial Field Officer