

HEMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

HEMPSTEAD-by-HOLT, NORFOLK

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Ref:HPC/A3/pbox

OFCOM
Contact Centre
Riverside House
2a Southwark Bridge Road
London SE1 9HA

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Dear Sir

Universal Service Obligation Consultation

Hempstead Parish Council is concerned to learn from our MP that BT is seeking a relaxation of the veto whereby local councils can object/overrule the closure of the last/only local call box in a location such as our village.

We have only ever had one call box in Hempstead, which as a Conservation Area enjoys a Type K3 'red' box which is very much part of the village scene. Although it is accepted that it does not get used as much as in the past, nevertheless it provides an essential local facility in an otherwise fairly isolated community.

We are some from 2 miles from the nearest town and 1 mile from the neighbouring village with a post office and alternative public 'phone. The area also has a high percentage of holiday accommodation and many walkers ramble our footpaths. Consequently the box does get both casual and particularly seasonal use. It also provides a ready means to contact the emergency services and report faults should this be necessary.

Council feels strongly that such a traditional and valuable amenity should be retained.

Yours faithfully

Keith J Fell

K J Fell
Clerk to the Council