

App 25/ 03609/ful & /3610/Adv . The Grove, Ilkley

Removal of BT tel box New BT Monolith.

Ilkley Civic Society has considerable concerns regarding these two applications as follows –

Removal of current BT tel box – Despite the belief by many organisations public and private that the whole population has a smart phone, that is not the case. Accepted a much smaller proportion but nevertheless considerable proportion of the population still rely on the use of copper wire telecoms communication. No justification for the removal of the BT box is provided, at least ONE working tel box must remain in the town centre even if usage is low. In emergencies the smart phone network has been known to fail. Removal of the BT box would be yet another case of digital discrimination

Installation of the proposed monolith a considerably higher (no dimension provided) structure than the current BT box would result in a negative feature in this high quality area providing a ‘positive contribution’ to the conservation area . The current BT box until adverts were added was glass fronted on 3 sides minimising its impact. The new monolith will be a solid black structure. NO heritage statement has been provided meaning the applicant has totally ignored this issue.

No account appears to have been taken of the residential properties immediately opposite to the site and even though not facing the flats the monolith screen will be visible to many of the flats with its associated light pollution. The screen measures 6ft by 2 ft a considerable illuminated area.

A wish list of environmental and statistical information that the box could provide is listed but this is meaningless greenwash without a legal commitment to provide the information to CBMC/Police.

The antisocial behaviour plan whilst of undoubted value appears to be moving towards a ‘1984 ‘ situation of state control of smart phone usage??

On the basis of the information provided Ilkley Civic Society recommend refusal of this application

ICS 06.11.25