



Bothenhampton & Walditch
Parish Council since 1886

Mr R Wheeler
Old School House
Churchayes
Bothenhampton

16th November 2020

Dear Mr Wheeler

RE: TELEGRAPH POLE NEAR YOUR PROPERTY

Thank you for taking the time to see me on 11th November to discuss your concerns about the insertion of a telegraph pole on the pavement near your property. It was a pleasure to meet you.

I am sorry you've been upset by the housing development nearby, and in particular about the damage caused to the pavement.

Following our discussion, I raised your concerns about the pavement with Kingsman, the developers, in Poole. They in turn spoke to their contact in BT Openreach. Kingsman tell me:

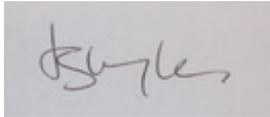
- that the new pole has been installed by BT Openreach not because of the site itself, but because one of the local residents has a fault on their line and the only way they can repair it is by relocating the cables. There is apparently no other suitable place for the pole; the location for safety reasons has to comply with certain legal requirements.
- the cobblestones (as we thought) were displaced in order to site the new pole, so there is unfortunately no room for these particular stones to be re-laid. BT Openreach will have sought and received permission from Dorset Council/Highways for the installation of the pole on the pavement.
- BT Openreach will be laying a temporary duct on top of the ground in order to house the new cables from the site of the housing development to the base of the pole. Permanent laying of the cables will be undertaken by Openreach some time next year; unfortunately this will entail further digging up of the pavement. I would imagine and hope, however, that, after burying the cables next year, Openreach will then re-lay these other paving stones.

You mentioned you have the details on how to appeal to Openreach against the installation of the pole.

In the meantime, I will ask the Highways department about their policy on unadopted roads such as yours. I'm interested to know if residents in these roads have a right to be consulted before work of this nature is done.

I will let you know if I get any further news.

Yours sincerely,

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in dark ink, which appears to read 'G Styles'.

Cllr Graham Styles
Bothenhampton & Walditch Parish Council
www.bothenhamptonwalditchparishcouncil.com