

Town council wants action taken on the deteriorating kiosks which give a bad impression

# 'Eyesore' phone boxes a blot on town landscape

by Rachael Woods  
rwoods@thekmgroupp.co.uk

A councillor is calling for dilapidated phone boxes in the town centre to be cleaned up or cleared out.

The near-derelict state of some of those in Tenterden was the subject of discussion at the town council's highways meeting on Monday night.

Cllr Sue Ferguson says it's out of order the boxes have been left to deteriorate and that they are a blot on the town's landscape.

The kiosk outside Lloyds Bank in the High Street was labelled an "utter eyesore" by Cllr Ferguson, who added: "The box is in a poor state and it's shocking to have this horrible object right in the heart of the High Street."

"It has green slime on the door, it's filthy and has adverts stuck on the outside."

"It gives a very bad impression of Tenterden and the only good thing is the phone does work."

Her criticisms were echoed by Cllr Roy Isworth who said: "The one outside Lloyds Bank is an abomination - it's an eyesore."

"The town council would like BT to maintain the telephone boxes but it all hinges on if they are being used."

He added: "If they are not being



At a town council meeting Sue Ferguson and Roy Isworth asked for the near-derelict phones boxes to either be cleaned up or have them removed from Tenterden's streets

used then we should consider putting defibrillators in them, or cash machines, like they have done in other towns."

Tenterden Town Council considered buying the kiosk at the top of Station Road and placing a defibrillator in it, but the Lions-funded equipment is now earmarked to go in the nearby toilet block.

The two listed red telephone boxes outside the Ashford Road sorting office are afflicted by a range of problem including

shattered windows, a missing handset and cable, plus loose hanging wires.

Only the Station Road phone box is intact but Cllr Ferguson describes it as "grubby".

The clean-up campaign could spell the end of the line for the phone box outside Lloyds Bank, as Cllr Ferguson is calling for it be taken away, or replaced with a superior model.

She said the unsightly kiosks were "very poor from a tourism point of view".

A spokesman for BT said an engineer has been sent to investigate and assess the site of the kiosks.

The spokesman added: "If residents wish to contact BT pay-phones about their local kiosks they can do so by emailing pay-phones@bt.com."

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An eyesore covered in slime - the phone box outside Lloyds Bank in Tenterden High Street