**Notes of Telephone call 22 November and 4 December 2023 with Catherine Nixon of Openreach Poles Objection Team in response to PC letter regarding reason for telegraph poles.**

The telegraph poles are being erected for the countrywide rollout by 2025/26 of the fibre network to premises to replace the copper telephone network. This has to be done as the parts are no longer available to maintain the copper network which in some areas can be up to 100 year old. Fibre is more reliable and faster and with more people working from home this is found to be an advantage.

In an ideal world connections would all be underground but this is not affordable. Digging underground is a much slower process which involves getting permits to close and dig up roads, traffic management and diversions. There are issues to avoid other utilities such as gas and electricity which are also underground.

The same issues arise when repairs are required. A pole can be erected in a matter of hours and is a much more straight forward process.

There is no legal requirement to notify the public of the intention to erect a pole and there is no planning process required.

Existing poles and underground ducting would always be used where possible. A new pole would only be erected where there is no alternative. A new pole or ducting is needed when the existing capacity is already ‘full’. Poles and ducting all have different capacities of how many properties they can serve depending on their age. Existing poles and ducting are a mix of copper and fibre. Ducting is mainly to newer properties when they were built. Older properties when built did not have this option and tend to be served by telegraph poles.

On The Green, the poles on the side of the road with the properties and bus shelter are all served by copper, poles on the river Caldew and wood side of the road are served by fibre. At some point in the future when everything has been switched over to fibre the old copper network (including the old poles) on the property side of the road will be removed. No one will ever be switched off without their knowledge.

There is a limit on the distance there can be between poles. Changing the location of one pole has a knock on effect on the others which is why there is little manoeuvrability.

Reasons which would be considered to move a proposed pole could be :

It blocks a road sign

It narrows a road to cause an obstruction or makes it more dangerous

If it is found that the proposed location is on private land

It interferes with other utilities

At present there is no known date when the poles will be erected in Dalston.

There will first be an exploratory dig to make sure that the plans have correctly identified where underground utilities are located.

It is unusual to receive objections via a body such as The Parish Council on behalf of a number of people. Objections are usually individual objections. The Parish Council would only count as one objection. To carry any weight people should write in individually if they object. There will be a number at which the volume of objections received would trigger an engineer visit to talk to residents about their objection/concerns.

**Address to send objections to:**

BT Pole Objection Team

6th Floor

Lancaster House

Old Hall Street

Liverpool

L3 9P

Letters should quote the address and pole reference from the notice.