

Policy and Resources

Report Title:	Adopt a Kiosk
Meeting Date:	1 November 2022
Contact Officer:	Jane Webster, Information Centre Officer

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide background on the possible adoption of the Grade II listed telephone box (kiosk) outside the Town Hall. A photo can be found at the bottom of this report.

Background

2. Since 2008, almost 4,000 communities have adopted more than 5,800 iconic red kiosks and around 800 of the more modern glass boxes and repurposed them. It is a way of retaining and rejuvenating a historic part of British culture in the community and making it an eye-catching asset.
3. It is proposed that the Town Council apply to BT to adopt the phone box outside the Town Hall which, for legal requirements, we would need to pay £1.00.
4. The phone box is Grade II listed and therefore the Town Council needs to apply to South Oxfordshire District Council Planning Department for Listed Building Consent (no cost).
5. The phone box outside the Town Hall is currently in a bad state or repair, and often used as a litter bin and for flyposting but could be considerably improved with a coat of paint and replacement Perspex panels.
6. The repurpose of the phone box would be primarily to house a defibrillator for the benefit of the public, hirers of the Town Hall and staff/Councillors. The panels on both sides of the kiosk to be used to provide local information via QR codes placed on to the Perspex panels.
7. BT Payphones will continue to be responsible for the electrical supply and any associated payments to electricity companies.

Next Steps

8. To aid the decision process, Officers have applied to South Oxfordshire District Council for Listed Building Consent. Application number [P22/S3531/LB](#) to repurpose the listed phone box directly outside the Town Hall to house a defibrillator. This application will be discussed at P&E on Tuesday 8 November 2022. As there is no fee associated to this application, only staff time, and the outcome is a crucial requirement to move forward to the next steps, as identified in item 9 and 10.

9. To complete the BT application form for Thame Town Council to formally adopt the kiosk. If the adoption is agreed by BT the payphone will be removed and ownership of the phone box will be automatically transferred within 5 days.
10. Repainting the phone box and replacing the Perspex panels prior to obtaining the defibrillator.

Resource Appraisal

11. £1.00 to purchase the phone box.
12. One company who supplies defibrillators will supply red and gold renovation paint plus signage to HSE requirements, although it has not yet been determined which supplier provides best value for money.
13. The Environmental Project Officer will obtain quotes and source funding via the Economic Development budget to supply and fit replacement Perspex panels. These panels will provide QR codes which will hold information of walks and other relevant interesting facts regarding Thame.
14. The defibrillator costs will be donated by a local building company, in memory of a family member who passed away last year. If required, they can also provide an electrician to connect the defibrillator and possibly a painter/decorator to repaint the phone box.
15. Annual running costs/replacement consumables for the defibrillator are estimated at £200.
16. Monthly checks will be required by staff to monitor the equipment.
17. Total resource requirement that includes a small contingency of up to £400.

Risk Assessment

18. This should highlight all the risks associated with the use and maintenance of the kiosk and put relevant actions in place. A log of all regular inspections and work carried out on the kiosk will be maintained.

Legal Powers:

- Public Health Act 1936, s234

Recommendation

It is recommended...

- i. To note that officers have applied to South Oxfordshire District Council for Listed Building Consent.***
- ii. To approve in principle and subject to Listed Building Consent approval, to apply to BT to adopt the kiosk outside the Town Hall and repurpose it to display local information and house a defibrillator.***

Photo of the Grade II Listed Phone Kiosk outside the Town Hall

