

Telephone Box Report

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1** The Parish Council has adopted 3 telephone boxes, which are all in a poor condition. There are also two more phone boxes in the Village which BT have decommissioned (Elcombe Avenue and Hackpen) and one 'live' phone box on the Moat Green.
- 1.2** It has been agreed that the phone box at Dunbar Road is to be transferred to Edghill Care Home for use in their memory garden. The Care Home are organising the removal and making good the site.

2.0 Report Details

2.1 Junction of Maskelyne Way and Kellsboro (Box A).

This is also a traditional K6 style box. It is in poor condition and the door is missing. The glazing, which may be polycarbonate is intact but cloudy with some graffiti. Spare parts are readily available from specialist suppliers.



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2.2 Entrance to Woodland View (Box B).

This is a red K8 style box from the 1970's. These are now rare, according to Wikipedia only 12 remain nationally (3 of these are in Swindon). This phone box is listed and is in poor condition. There is no glazing, and as the glazing forms part of the structure, the box has been supported by 'temporary' props for a number of years. If the Hill's development goes ahead, it is likely that the box would need to be re-located. Spares for K8 boxes are hard to source as the boxes are so rare. The correct paint colour is a brighter red than for the older K6 boxes. Refurbishment works may require listed building consent.



- 2.3** £3,000.00 has been ear marked from CIL funds to restore the parish telephone boxes.
- 2.4** To restore Box A, parts and paint will cost up to £1,800.00.
- 2.5** Advice on refurbishing Box B should be sought from the Conservation Officer at Swindon Borough Council. It is also worth contacting Hills to ascertain a timescale for them to move the box before committing to refurbish it.
- 2.6** If Council is minded to refurbish the phone boxes, some direction on the future use would be useful.
 - 2.6.1** It is quite common for phone boxes to be used as food banks, mini-libraries and defibrillator housing. These ideas have been discounted in the past as food banks can attract rats/pests and the village has a library and defibrillators.

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2.6.2 An alternative is floral planting or mini light up art gallery:



2.6.3 There is also the option of restoring the phone boxes, sealing them shut (to reduce the likelihood of vandalism) and leaving them as is.

3.0 **Recommendations**

3.1 That members approve the restoration of box A at a cost of up to £1,800.00

3.2 That the Clerk make contact with the Conservation Officer and Hills and make enquiries into the restoration and moving of Box B, update to be provided at the next committee meeting.

3.2 That members agree a potential use for Box B.