

Telephone Box Options

The Parish own three kiosks; Woodland View, Kellsboro Avenue and Kennet Road/Dunbar Road corner. Kiosks at Woodland View and Kellsboro Avenue boxes have now been refurbished with costs totaling £5382.63 and we have received very positive feedback from members of the public about these. The third box at Kennet/Dunbar Road corner is in a very poor state of repair with flaking paint, missing glazing and graffiti.

The Community Assets Committee is being asked to consider and make a recommendation on:

1. The future of the phone box at Kennet/Dunbar Road corner



Kennet Road/Dunbar Road Corner Kiosk

This was not refurbished in March 2021 with the other WPC owned boxes due to budget restrictions. It is in a poor state of repair with damaged glazing, graffiti and flaking paintwork. Given recent representations from various members of the public and online discussion about telephone boxes in Wroughton, the Community Assets Committee are being asked to recommend a way forward regarding this kiosk.

Option 1

To refurbish the kiosk with likely costs for an 'in situ' renovation will be around £4000 as a rubdown, repaint, new signage and full reglaze is needed. It would be prudent to replace a door straps and possibly hinges too. WPC have not made provision in this year's budget for this and would need to plan this spend as part of the 2022/23 year. Another option would be to leave the glass out of the box and use it for a floral/foilage display. This would save glazing costs but bring with it a cost for staging, planting and regular watering by the Grounds Team.

Local resident Julie Cahill has written to WPC to lobby for this outcome (see Appendix 1 for attached letter) on behalf of her elderly parents and family. Julie hopes to join the Community Assets meeting via Zoom.

Option 2

To offer the kiosk to one of those who have expressed an interest. These individuals intend to join the Community Assets meeting via Zoom to speak in the public questions section. All of those listed have indicated they would be happy to pay for removal costs and repair to the pavement.

- Lisa Edwards, Manager of Edgehill Care Home, Liden would like the kiosk for a dementia memory garden. She initially expressed an interest a few years ago.
- Andrew and Sarah Bracher who live on Kennet Road in the house next to the kiosk are restoration enthusiasts and keen to relocate the box to their garden.
- Lisa Smart (former Wroughton resident) who has fond childhood memories of using the box and would like to relocate it to her garden. She contacted the Parish in 2020 to enquire about this.

If costs for the kiosk removal, transfer to a local address and making good of the pavement area are to be borne by the individual this is likely to be in the region of £500+ VAT. DCI Engineering are the contractors used by BT to remove the boxes and could offer this service. There may be an additional charge for making safe any electrical supply as it is unclear whether this has already happened. WPC may also wish to ask for an additional donation to charity or to WPC budget to fund local projects.

Option 3

WPC make arrangements for removal of phone box, repair pavement and sell phone box on E-Bay with income generated used to offset future Parish projects. An Estimated amount of £1700 (collection only by buyer or additional haulage fee) would be reasonable for a box in the condition of that at Kennet Road but WPC would need to cover costs for it's removal and the pavement being reinstated (estimated £500) and meet e-bay sales commission costs of 10%.

See overleaf kiosks for sale currently on e-Bay.

Option 4

Leave phone box in current condition and defer the discussion to a later date.

E-Bay Phone boxes available for sale

This box is in much better condition than WPC Kiosk and is on sale for £2,200. Price includes no haulage and buyer must collect

The screenshot shows an eBay listing for a 'British Red Telephone Box Vintage Retro'. The item is in 'Used' condition and priced at £2,200.00. The listing includes a main image of the red phone box in a yard, with several smaller thumbnail images below it. The right-hand side of the listing features a 'Buy it now' button, an 'Add to basket' button, and a 'Watch this item' button. Below these are statistics: '30-day returns', '100% positive Feedback', and '12 watchers'. The seller information shows a 100% positive feedback score. The listing also mentions 'Free collection in person' and '30 days refund, buyer pays return postage'.

This kiosk on E-Bay has not been sold and research shows it is overpriced at £2,600 and is in a worse state of repair that WPC owned box at Kennet Rd/Dunbar Rd. Buyer collects

The screenshot shows an eBay listing for a 'British Red Telephone Phone Box Vintage Retro'. The item is in 'Used' condition and priced at £2,600.00, with a financing option of 'From £123 per month for 24 months'. The listing includes a main image of the red phone box in a street, with several smaller thumbnail images below it. The right-hand side of the listing features a 'Buy it now' button, an 'Add to basket' button, and a 'Watch this item' button. Below these are statistics: '30-day returns' and '95 watchers'. The seller information shows a 98.9% positive feedback score. The listing also mentions 'Free collection in person' and '30 days refund, buyer pays return postage'.

Recommendations for Community Assets Committee

1. The Committee make a clear recommendation on the future of the phone box at Kennet Road/Dunbar corner and make suitable budget provision if required.
2. The Committee instruct the Community Projects and Grants Officer, under the supervision of the Clerk, to contact appropriate members of the public to advise/liaise on any decisions made and arrange for any further actions arising to take place.
3. Note that phone boxes at Kellesboro Avenue and Woodland View will be added to the WPC Grounds Team Maintenance schedule.

Appendix 1

Wroughton Parish Council
Chair of Community Assets Committee

27 Berkeley Road
Wroughton
SN4 9BN

27th April 2021

Dear Sir,

Telephone Box on the corner of Kennet and Dunbar Road, Wroughton

I understand that the Committee will be discussing the red phone boxes owned by the Parish Council at the next meeting. Your Projects Officer has explained to me that the Parish owns three red phone boxes and that two of these have now been renovated.

I would like to strongly urge you to refurbish the remaining phone box which forms part of the street furniture and heritage of our village. My parents have lived at the house opposite the phone box since the houses there were built and are now 89 years old. They would be delighted to see the phone box restored to its former glory as soon as possible. Once restored, if plants were installed for example, my parents would be very happy to be 'guardians' and water, maintain them etc.

We share fond memories of the kiosk and all the neighbours used the box as they didn't have private landlines. I can remember phoning Father Christmas, sheltering from the rain and hanging out with friends.

I understand that as with any local authority there are competing demands for very limited finances but would really like the phone box to stay as part of our history. It's in a very sorry state at the moment with peeling paint and graffiti.

I hope you will consider this letter of behalf of my elderly parents and I.

Many thanks for your attention and assistance.

Yours faithfully,
Mrs Julie Cahill