

A Proposal to adopt the Red telephone Box at Chilcroft Road, Lion Lane

Background

Since BT launched their Adopt a Kiosk scheme, more than 5,000 communities across the UK have seized the opportunity to do something wonderful with local phone boxes that had little or no usage. Not far from Haslemere, Frensham (<https://frensham-pc.gov.uk/parishwp/news/phonebox-project/>) and Compton (<https://www.instagram.com/comptonphonebox/w.instagram.com/comptonphonebox>) communities have adopted their local phoneboxes to great effect and community benefit.


The traditional red kiosk, or K6, plays a significant part in our national heritage. It is a British design icon and generates a great deal of nostalgia for many people. Mobile phones have made these phoneboxes largely obsolete as a telecommunications resource so creative uses must be generated to maintain their presence and community relevance into the future.


BT is aware that many people find the red phone boxes an important part of the local street scene and has an 'Adopt a kiosk' scheme giving communities an opportunity to adopt a traditional red phone box for £1.00 and make them a community asset that local people can enjoy. To find out more about BT's adopt a Kiosk scheme visit www.bt.com/adopt.

In November 2019 Waverley Borough Council began a community consultation to find out what local people think about British Telecom's plans to remove phone boxes across the borough. One of the phone boxes earmarked for removal was the red phonebox situated at Chilcroft Road, Lion Lane. Located between two schools and along a densely populated road, there was local feeling that this phonebox could be saved and repurposed for creative community projects.

Proposal

This document has been collated in order to request that Haslemere Town Council adopts this red phonebox at Chilcroft Road, Lion Lane, Haslemere and hands it over to the community to manage, maintain and repurpose it for community projects, such as a book exchange and community infopoint.

 Kate Coutts, a resident of Chilcroft Road and a Parent Governor at Shottermill Infants is championing this project. She has already gained the support of members of the Green Team at Shottermill Infants School and there are other local residents who have expressed an interest in this project. To generate further support, this project will be publicised in both Lion Lane schools newsletters and there are plans to send a press release to the Haslemere Herald. Related social media will also go out. Some local businesses such as the Lion's Den have been persuaded to hold a red collection box in order to raise funds for initial clean up and maintenance works to be done, and there will be ongoing fundraising activities and donation requests to fund materials such as paint and shelving.

 Once the phonebox has been adopted and the managing committee has been constituted, next steps would be to organise a community working party to assess, clean, carry out initial paint and repair and devise a schedule of ongoing works, crowd fund, hold a meeting and generate further publicity. The longevity of this project is ensured by the involvement of the two schools as well as the residents of this busy road in Haslemere.