

FUTURE USE OF (NOW OWNED) TELEPHONE KIOSK

Background

Following the signing of an agreement with BT, Egmonton Village has now “adopted”, i.e. owns, the ex-BT telephone box. The purchase price was a nominal £1.

Potential future use of the kiosk

Taken from examples given by BT and other sources, such adoptions elsewhere have resulted in the following uses:-

- A drop off/collection point for books, groceries and newspapers
- A pop-up plant shop where local pre-school children sell flowers and vegetables they have grown themselves
- A mini art gallery
- An advertising point for local B&B's, local holiday rentals, etc.
- A flower/plant display focal point
- The siting of a defibrillator.

The case for a defibrillator sited in the kiosk

“Up and down the country, the Community Heartbeat Trust (CHT) is campaigning for redundant phone boxes to be turned into vital medical centres for local communities, including the installation of lifesaving defibrillators in the phone box. With something as serious as a cardiac arrest, time is of the essence and unfortunately ambulance services often can't reach country villages in time”.

Estimated cost of installing a defibrillator (£'s)

Initial purchase

The device itself (Pad)	1100*
A box to house the device	650*
Installation	150
Total	1,900

*Including VAT. There are numerous PAD models and housing boxes, with prices ranging up to £2,400 for both.

Running costs over 4 years

Maintenance	600
Electricity consumption	120
Annual cost	180

The maintenance cost figure includes a replacement battery at the end of its 4-year cycle (c. £200), and replacement pads (12 pairs), after one-time use or 18 months of non-use.

The electricity consumption is to heat the box housing the PAD, since the device will not function properly in low outside temperatures.

Are grants available to offset the cost?

Yes. The two researched are from The British Heart Foundation (BHF) who, following a successful application, will discount the Pad (only) to £600 and Via a National Lottery application, in conjunction with CHT (referred to above). A successful application would pay for the whole system except annual maintenance.

Can we afford to self-finance if a grant application fails?

At the end of the last financial year, 31st March 2017, the village had reserves of £3,848 (external audit approved). The budget shows income for the current year of £1,700 – precept increased by 3% - and costs of £1,837 leaving a reserve of £3,711 by the end of March 2018. The costs include £152 for the dog waste bin, now installed on Wood Lane, and a budget £200 for preparation and paint materials for the posts and rails re-vamp in early Spring 2018.

If we fund the defibrillator ourselves, the closing reserve will be £1,811.

If we receive a grant from BHF the closing balance will be £2,311.

If we engage with CHT, and gain a Lottery award, our reserves will be depleted by just £180 this year.

*It should be emphasised that an application for the Lottery funding needs to show a **widespread agreement to the action and a firm commitment to the cause.** It follows that the minute of a Parish Meeting must do this after approval.*

The decision for the Parish Meeting on 7th September 2017

Do we use the kiosk for a purpose other than housing a defibrillator? If so, appoint a sub-committee to decide what the use will be.

If we want a defibrillator in our village, is that decision dependent on success with one of the two grant schemes available?

Are we prepared to self-fund if the grants are not obtained?

Other relevant issues relating to the defibrillator decision

A grant application clearly takes time. Self-financing can be effected quickly since we have the money available.

The specification for the cabinet is strict and must be complied with.

BT only allows the free use of 8 watts power supply in the box. The additional supply to power the box heater may be chargeable but in any case we have to obtain agreement from both BT and the power company involved.

We have to inform other local bodies such as the Fire Service.

Our insurers have already covered the kiosk but must be informed if/when a defibrillator is installed. There would be no extra cost.

Of note, the CHT organisation is a charity with extensive experience of installing PAD devices around the country. It provides three routes to acquire the devices: i) outright purchase and ownership (self financed or via Lottery award as above); ii) lease the device, or; iii) CHT's 'managed solution', which provides for the supply, installation and maintenance of the equipment (including replacement in event of malfunction or damage) over a given period (min 4 years).

Training is provided with the CHT option, otherwise we seek out a suitable course for volunteers. Use of the device itself is said to be intuitive. We will need volunteers to get the kiosk user ready, whatever that use.

I wish to thank Steve Bunnell (Vice Chairman) for the research that went into preparing this decision paper.

J G Smith – clerk

22 August 2017