Brixham Town Council

Report No:	37-2020		
Report Type:	Public		
Title:	K6 Heritage Telephone Kiosk		
To:	Full Council	Date:	19.11.20
Contact Officer:	Deputy Town Clerk	Linda McGuirk	
Contact Details:	info@brixhamtowncouncil.gov.uk	01803 859678	

Purpose of Report
To consider creating floral displays and bug hotels in the three adopted K6 Heritage Telephone kiosks.

Background

In 2017 the Town Council adopted three K6 Heritage telephone kiosks from British Telecom. All three kiosks are in very poor condition and need a lot of TLC to be brought up to their former glory.

Various ideas and plans have developed over the past three years including offering the Kiosk's to local community groups and organisations once they were restored, with BTC responsible for the restoration, relocation and planning application fee's. Various obstacles have hindered the project and the kiosk's have suffered from neglect. A budget of £6,000 was agreed for the project and this is currently held as ear marked reserves.

Successful applications to adopt kiosks were received from Shoalstone Pool CIC and the Battery Heritage Museum. Both organisations have since confirmed they no longer require the kiosk.

At a Full Council meeting held in 2019 members reviewed the project and it was agreed to:

Telephone Kiosk 1 (missing door) – North Boundary Road opposite Pillar shops.
To be sold with the proceeds to go towards the costs of refurbishing Telephone kiosks 2 & 3.

Attempts have been made to sell the kiosk by utilising the Council's newsletter and social media sites, but no offers have been received.

Telephone Kiosk 2 – Great Rea Road junction with Higher Ranscombe Road.
To be refurbished and re-sited at Shoalstone Pool. Shoalstone Pool proposed to use it as an information point to link the area between Berry Head & Brixham Town Centre.

Telephone Kiosk 3 – Rea Barn Road junction with Edinburgh Road.
It is proposed to refurbish and change to house a defib for the community

All three kiosks have no power and BT has advised against relocation of the kiosks as they are subject to cracking and collapsing due to their age.

The cost of restoration has increased and the original £6,000 budget would not be sufficient.

Alternative option

During the first lockdown an image of a telephone kiosk that had been transformed into a floral display in the South Hams village of Down Thomas caught our attention. A simple and cost effective solution! The vision is to create beautiful wildlife habitats that will encourage insects and pollinators. It is suggested that a 'bug hotel' is trialled in one of the kiosk's.

The Lengthsmen would strip, undercoat, prime and paint (colour matched to the official BT red) the kiosks in their current locations. Glazing would be removed. This work would be scheduled for January / February 2021.

Planting will need to be carefully considered, particularly if a bug hotel is included, it should be pollinator friendly and robust to create a natural balance for the insects that will move into the 'hotel'. Wild flowers could be a more robust option.

Suggested plants; pansies, marigolds, sweet alyssum

Trailers: ivy, nasturtium, honeysuckle, sweet pea, Lobelia 'pendula'

Expenditure

A budget of £6,000 is held in earmarked reserves for this project. Initial plans which included relocation of the kiosks will be costly in comparison to the proposed floral displays. Approximate comparison costs are shown below:

Budget for the original proposal. Based on quotes received in 2019.	
Blast/ Prime & top coat **Box 1**	£1,300.00
Blast/ Prime & top coat **Box 2**	£1,300.00
Blast/ Prime & top coat **Box 3** (no door)	£1,300.00
Re glazing	£2,095.00
Pavement repair	£300.00
Relocation/ transportation costs	£500.00
Site location map (purchased for planning application that was subsequently withdrawn)	£14.00
	£6,809.00
Budget for proposed floral option	
5 litre Prime block and finish x 2 (Bradite one can) colour matched to official BT colour.	£130.50
Wire brushes	£20.00
Paint brushes	£20.00
White spirit	£5.00

Heavy duty cable ties	£30.00
Planters x 28 total (Edinburgh Road x 8, Higher Ranscombe Road x 12,Pillar Avenue x 8)	£170.00
Hanging basket x3 (one at each location hung internally) redundant baskets provided by SWISCO	£0
Bug hotels x 1 (recycled materials)	£0
Flowers/ Plants for 26 troughs and three baskets	£500.00
Telebug Hotel custom glass signs x 1	£30.00
BTC custom glass signs x 6	£180.00
1000L Compost	£125.00
	£1,210.50

Costings are approximate, we will strive to bring the project in under budget and source plants and materials locally.

Recommendations

That Brixham Town Council:
1. Refurbishes all three Kiosks in their current location, utilising the Lengthsman.
2. Installs floral displays in all three kiosks
3. Trials a 'Bug Hotel' in one kiosk and if successful installs bug hotels in the other two kiosks.