



# Adopt a Kiosk



# Contents

Welcome to the Adopt a Kiosk scheme

The Adopt a Kiosk scheme

Doing something wonderful with an iconic asset  
Adopting a kiosk – all you need to know is right here  
The next steps to adoption  
What happens when you apply to adopt?

Success stories

Did you know...?

3

4

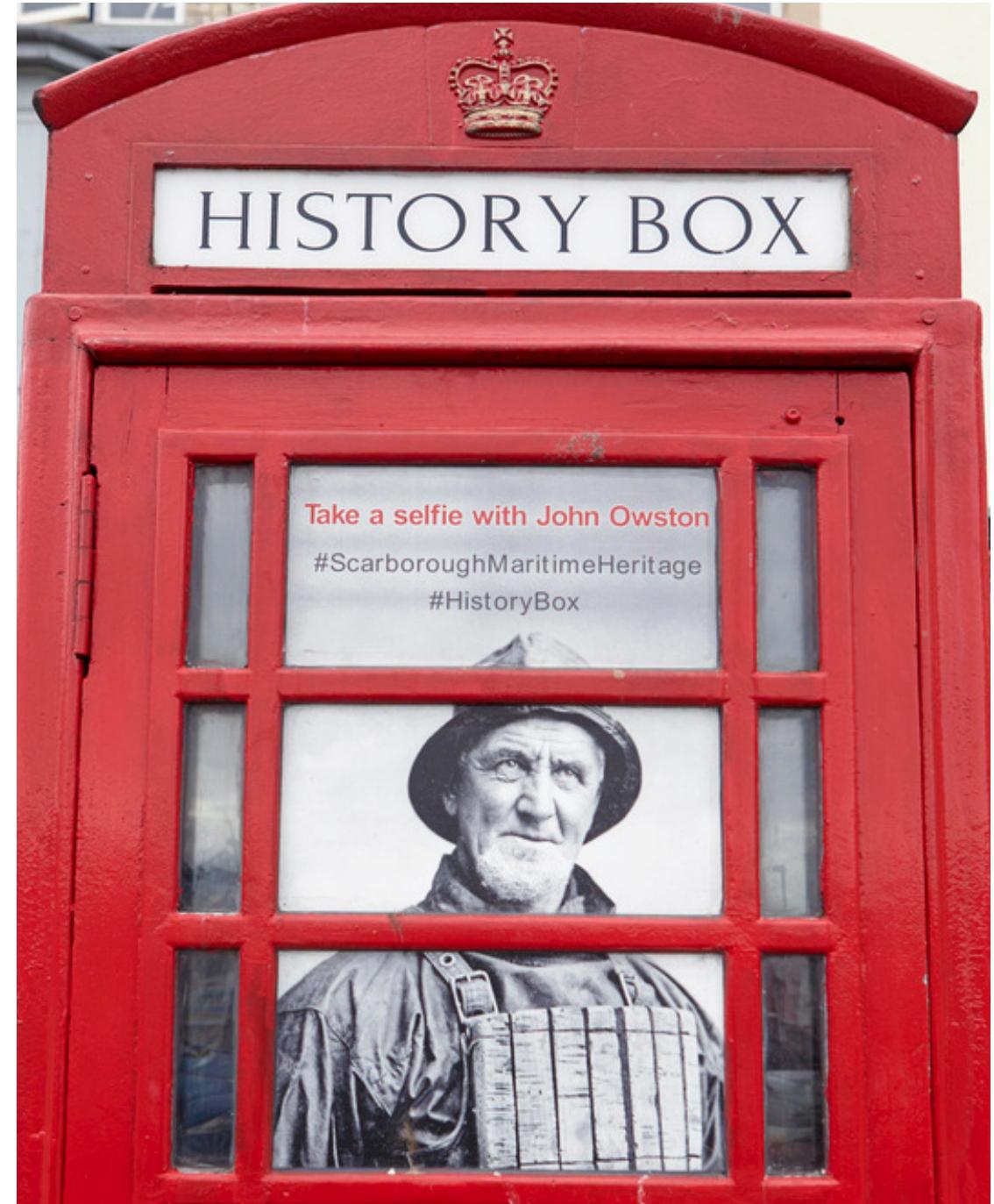
6

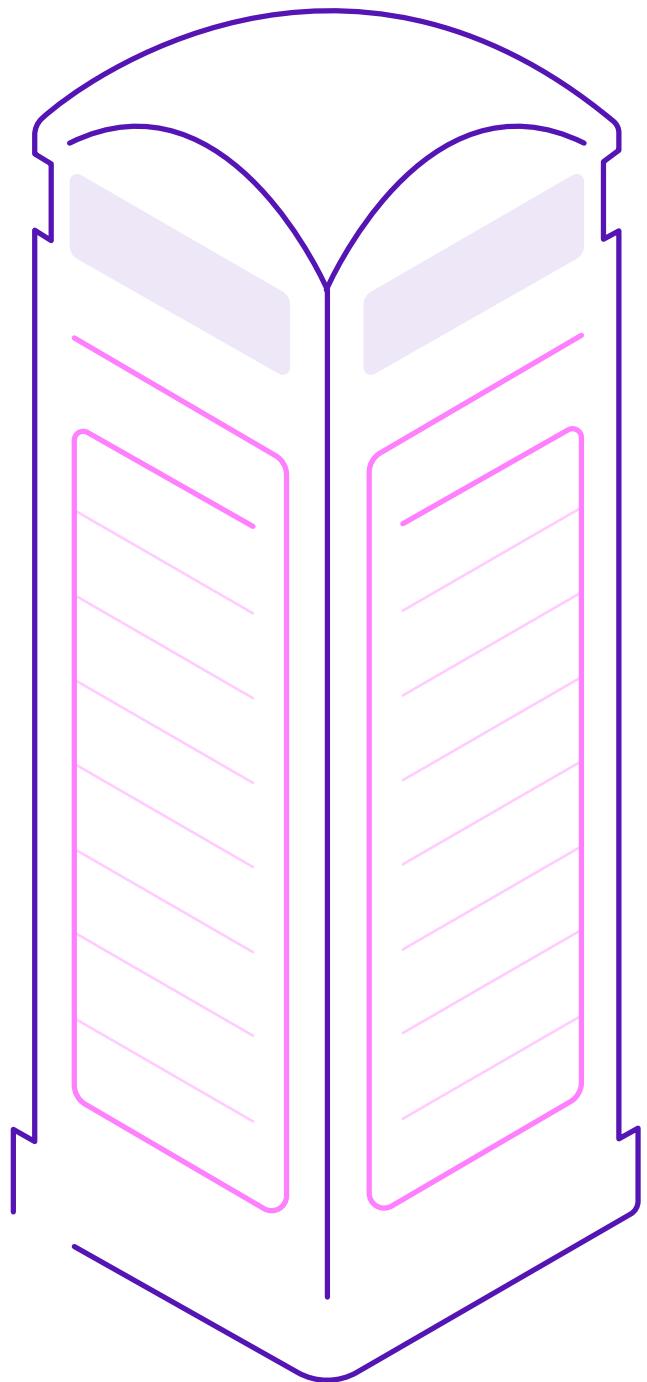
7

8

9

13





# Welcome to the Adopt a Kiosk scheme

Since 2008, almost 4,000 communities and charitable bodies have adopted more than 5,800 iconic red kiosks and around 800 of our more modern glass boxes. People have come up with fantastic ideas on how to repurpose them such as using them to house defibrillators and art exhibitions.

## **Costing just £1, our adoption scheme is open to:**

- Local authority district or borough councils
- Parish, community and town councils or their equivalents
- Registered charities
- People with a kiosk on their land.

**It's a way of retaining and rejuvenating an historic part of British culture in your community and making it an eye-catching asset that local people can enjoy.**

---

The Adopt a Kiosk scheme is not available to other individuals, commercial organisations, community interest companies or community groups such as residents' associations.

---

# The Adopt a Kiosk scheme



## Doing something wonderful with an iconic asset

Red phone kiosks have been part and parcel of British villages, towns and cities for many years. Placed in the heart of our communities, some may be underused but they're certainly not unloved. They no longer have the key role they played in bringing communities together, but with our Adopt a Kiosk scheme they can once more be a fantastic focal point for the local area.

With thousands of kiosks being used for an array of creative and civic-minded ideas, we are delighted to be able to give more communities the chance to develop inspiring uses for this icon of British design and heritage. We're also offering some more modern glass units for the sole purpose of making lifesaving defibrillators available to more people.

We still have around 4,000 red phone kiosks available to adopt for the princely sum of a pound each. This brochure will help you see how they can become practical, cultural, inspiring additions to the community, and allow you to do something wonderful with an iconic asset.

# Adopting a kiosk – all you need to know is right here

We've made it as simple as possible for you to adopt your local kiosk. Here's the key information you need to know:

## Who can apply?

Any recognised local authority, parish / community / town council or registered charity in the UK can apply to adopt their local kiosk.

## How much does it cost?

To comply with legal requirements, authorities need to buy the kiosk from BT for £1.

## Which planning regulations apply?

Adopters of boxes should check with their local authority to see if any planning consents are required.

## What happens to the power connection?

### Option 1:

BT Payphones will continue to be responsible for the electrical supply and any associated payments to electricity companies. We reserve the right to disconnect the electricity supply at any point in the future, however we will contact the kiosk owner should this become necessary. Electrical equipment cannot be connected to the electrical supply unless agreed with BT.

We will only be responsible for the electricity supply up to the fuse box. Any faults beyond this point will be the responsibility of the kiosk owner.

### Option 2:

Customers taking responsibility for the electricity supply will need to apply for a Meter Point Administration Number (MPAN) from their electricity company. This is a reference number used to identify the electricity supply point.

When the customer owns the power connection, we will need to know this number to transfer the billing for the kiosk's power supply. Your local power company will be able to give you your MPAN, but please contact us for more information on how to apply for an unmetered MPAN.

## What if the power supply has already been disconnected?

If the power to the kiosk has been disconnected, BT will not refund any payments made or reconnect the supply.

## What is the annual electricity cost for a kiosk?

Costs to supply power to kiosks will vary depending on your electricity company. We don't have any control over what they may charge.



# The next steps to adoption

Below are the steps you will need to take to adopt your kiosk.

There's more information at [www.bt.com/adopt](http://www.bt.com/adopt) and we are happy to answer any questions you have.



## CONDITIONS OF TRANSFER

The following conditions let you know what to do to when adopting your kiosk. You will also need to carefully review the agreement we send you.

1. The adopting body must apply to the relevant authorities for any of the necessary consents to retain a kiosk. This may involve planning consent, depending on the local authority.
2. The kiosk will be disconnected from our telephone network and we'll remove the payphone equipment.
3. Where the kiosk is powered, the adopters will have the option for us to supply power free of charge or to take ownership of the supply. Please contact us if you want to own the power connection.
4. To comply with legal requirements, adopters need to purchase the kiosk from BT for £1.
5. The kiosk will be purchased with any and all physical defects. No representations, warranties or conditions concerning the quality or fitness for purpose are given or assumed by BT.
6. Adopters will be responsible for all support and maintenance of the kiosk and for any liability resulting from the kiosk or its use following transfer of ownership.

# What happens when you apply to adopt?

Once an application has been submitted, BT will handle the rest. It's that simple!

1. It is imperative that all the legal conditions contained within the "agreement for the sale and purchase of telephone kiosk(s)" are met.  
Please only submit an online application when the agreement can be signed and returned to BT.
2. Upon receipt of the online application BT will consider whether to approve the adoption. If approved, BT will send an agreement for signature and return.
3. Upon return BT will countersign the agreement and provide a copy. At this stage the transfer process will start automatically.
4. Upon completing the removal of the payphone equipment from the phone box, BT will forward a Notice to Complete to the adopting body.  
Ownership of the phone box will be automatically transferred within 5 days.
5. The phone box(es) will then be the property of the adopting body.
6. Some applications will require the permission of the local authority to remove the telephone service. BT will apply for permission in these cases, but this can take up to 90 days and acceptance cannot be guaranteed.  
In the event an application isn't approved BT will contact the interested party directly.



# Success stories

## Defibrillator – Patrick Brompton Parish Council, Richmondshire

A traditional red BT phone box, situated in the centre of the village, has been converted into housing for a defibrillator unit to help save lives.



*"As a council we were really keen to adopt our red phone box and we didn't want to see it go (...) It's a fact that no-one really uses payphones anymore, but they look quite iconic, especially in rural areas like ours, so we wanted to retain it from a heritage perspective... Thankfully, it's never had to be used but it's reassuring to know it's there in case we ever need it in an emergency."*

**Brian Whitehead**  
Vice Chairman of the Parish Council



## Book Exchange – Church Lawford Parish Council, Warwickshire

A book exchange has been created inside a former BT red phone box opposite a pub in Church Lawford.

*"We wanted to add the book exchange element as the mobile library only visits briefly once a month (...) At Christmas we installed lights on the green for the first time, powered from the phone box, and we also installed a sound system with carols and songs written about the village during the Covid lockdown. If another village were considering adopting their phone box, I would say it is very worthwhile."*

**Jeremy James**

Chairman of the Parish Council

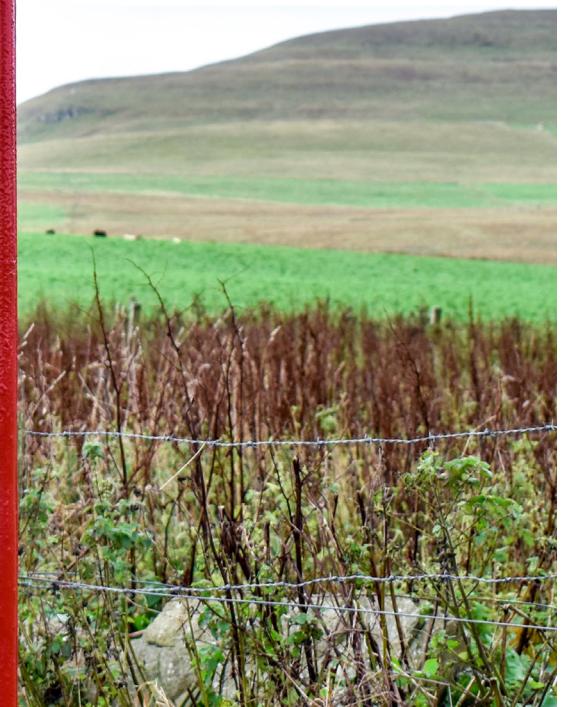
## Defibrillator – Orkney, Scotland

A red phone kiosk on the remote island of Westray in Orkney has been transformed into housing for a defibrillator, part of Westray Development Trust's ongoing initiative to increase access to first aid in the area.



*"The red telephone box on the Westside of Westray was an ideal location to install a public access defibrillator as the telephone box was both memorable and already strategically placed. Thanks to BT's 'Adopt a Kiosk' scheme we were able to expand our defibrillator network and improve access to life-saving equipment in an emergency for our isolated island community."*

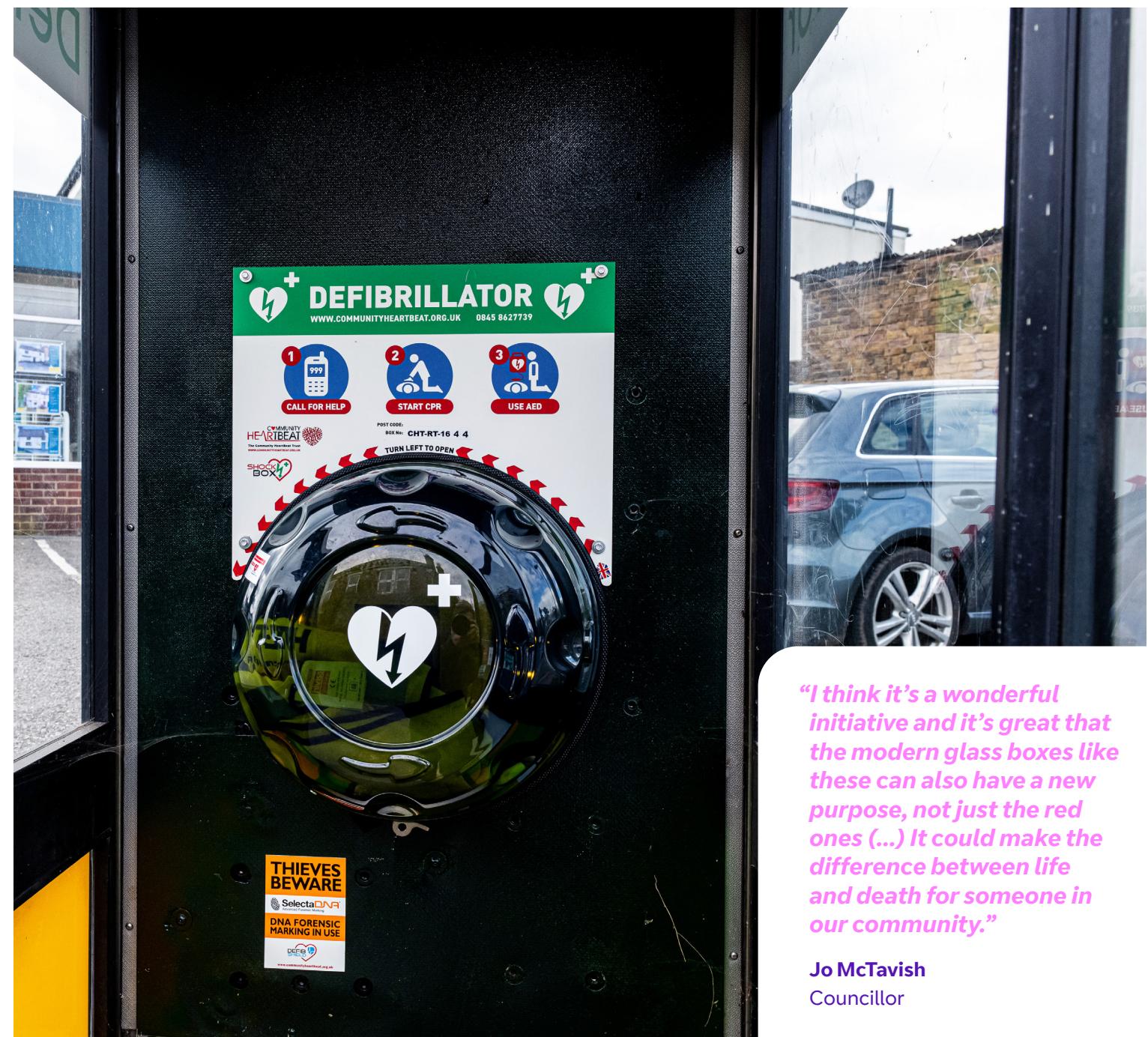
**Isobel Thompson**  
Operations Manager at the Trust



## Defibrillator – Meopham Parish Council, Kent

It's not just our red boxes being given a new lease on life either. We're repurposing our more modern glass boxes exclusively to house defibrillators, providing better access to life-saving gear for more rural communities.

Meopham Parish Council worked with the Community Heartbeat Trust to make better use of an older glass phone box at the local train station.



*"I think it's a wonderful initiative and it's great that the modern glass boxes like these can also have a new purpose, not just the red ones (...) It could make the difference between life and death for someone in our community."*

**Jo McTavish**  
Councillor

# Did you know...?

- Since the Adopt a Kiosk scheme was launched in 2008, over 6,600 kiosks have been adopted.
- Kiosks have been turned into defibrillator housings, art galleries, book exchanges, exhibition spaces, information centres and even a pub!
- Every village that fits a defibrillator provided by Community Heartbeat Trust in their adopted kiosk can receive a free paint kit from the British Coatings Federation to spruce it up.
- Villagers in Ambridge – from BBC Radio 4's long-running drama The Archers – have adopted a kiosk.
- You can check online to see if your local kiosk is available for adoption, and even if it isn't you can contact us to see what we can do for you.



# How to get in touch

Visit [www.bt.com/adopt](http://www.bt.com/adopt) to find out more about adopting a kiosk.



## Offices Worldwide

The services described in this publication are subject to availability and may be modified from time to time. Services and equipment are provided subject to British Telecommunications plc's respective standard conditions of contract. Nothing in this publication forms any part of any contract.

© British Telecommunications plc 2020. Registered office: 81 Newgate Street, London EC1A 7AJ. Registered in England No. 1800000.

May 2021