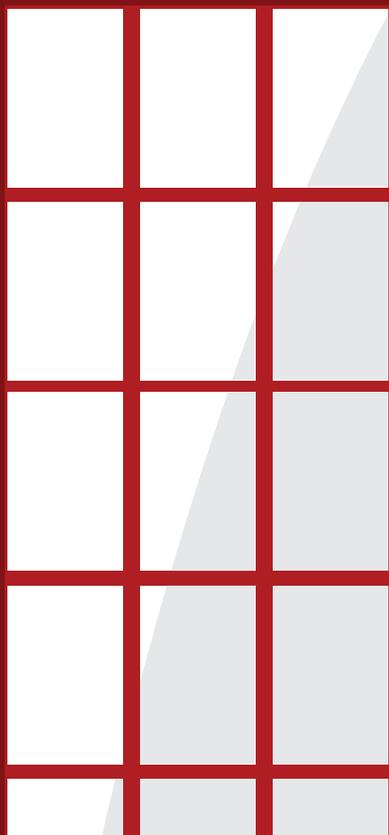




ADOPT A PHONE BOX



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# The Adopt a phone box programme

**Since the Adopt a phone box programme was launched, more than 3,500 communities across the UK have seized the opportunity to do something wonderful with local phone boxes that had little or no usage.**

Often, BT phone boxes have stood for years as part of a town or village, and many members of the community are keen to avoid simply having the phone box removed, leaving an empty space where it once stood.

The growth of the mobile phone industry has inevitably meant phone box usage has dropped dramatically, and nearly half of the phone boxes in the UK have been removed, but there are still around 8000 red phone boxes which can be adopted.

So BT is delighted to give communities the opportunity to get back in touch with the remaining phone boxes – and make them once again an asset that local people can enjoy.

Thousands of communities already have come up with a fantastic array of ideas to re-use their beloved local phone box.

Phone boxes already adopted include a grocery shop, a wildlife information centre and the Community Heartbeat Trust charity has even installed defibrillators in some local phone boxes.

This pack is designed to inspire you as to what you could do with your local phone box, and give you some more information about how to get involved in adopting.

Whether it's something that would bring heritage and culture, a practical solution or just joy and inspiration to your community, BT would love you to consider adopting!

# Saving lives with phone boxes at the heart of communities

**Up and down the country, the Community Heartbeat Trust 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 boxes.**

From Aberdeen to Plymouth, working with BT, the charity has already installed defibrillators into a number of phone boxes, and is now inundated with inquiries from parish councils.

Trust secretary Martin Fagan said: “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.”

“To install defibrillators in disused phone boxes is ideal, as they are often in the centre of the village and it means the iconic red phone box can remain a lifeline and focus the community.”

“The take-up has been fantastic, and we hope many more people will adopt and choose our help to save lives in rural communities.”



“ To install defibrillators in disused phone boxes is ideal, as they are often in the centre of the village and it means the iconic red phone box can remain a lifeline and focus the community ”

## And here's how it can work...

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When crowds gathered to watch the Tour de France stream through the little Essex village of Finchingfield, an adopted BT phone box played a major role in saving a man's life.

Parish clerk Kate Fox said: "A man suffered a heart attack while visiting Finchingfield to join the 8,000-strong crowd thronging the village that day.

"Fortunately, one of the ladies from the post office was on hand and her prompt action in using the phone box defibrillator to stimulate his heart before an ambulance arrived was certainly instrumental in saving his life.

"The ambulance crew worked on the patient for nearly hour to stabilise him before he was transferred to Basildon hospital by air ambulance."

The council is now planning to put another defibrillator in another BT phone box in the neighbouring parish of Great Bardfield.

"Anyone would be able to use the defibrillator in the event of an emergency," said Kate. "The devices are very intuitive with audio directions so, although training is beneficial, it's not essential."



## Promenade of art as Cheltenham boxes clever

**Ten red phone boxes in the centre of Cheltenham are being transformed into miniature art galleries.**

The phone boxes have been a familiar sight in a pedestrianised section of the Promenade in the Gloucestershire town since the 1960s.

The go-ahead for their novel new use was approved at a meeting of the borough council's planning committee. Councillors

voted unanimously in favour of the idea and said they were pleased the phone boxes would remain a permanent feature in the town.

The phone boxes will be temporarily removed to undergo renovations before being returned to the site where they will provide a showcase for the work of local artists.

## Making the switch from calls to cuppas

**Brighton residents in need of a good cuppa need look no further than a city centre Red phone box these days.**

For local businessmen Eddie Ottewell and Steve Beeken have launched Red Box Coffee selling hot drinks and ice cream out of the two phone boxes they adopted.

The innovative duo have also started the Thinking Outside The Box Charitable Trust to bring new life to phone boxes whose use has declined.

Ten per cent of every Red Box Coffee purchase will go to the charity Friends First, helping people break cycles of homelessness, dependency and unemployment.

Eddie said: "Once we had BT's support the project was underway. It has been a journey of many twists, turns and obstacles as this had not been done before. We are extremely proud of the project and thank BT and Brighton Council for their support from the outset."

The trust has lodged planning applications with other UK local authorities for phone boxes to be transformed into cafés, mini-shops and shoe-shine stands.

# Village phone box looks blooming lovely, thanks to littl'uns

**Green-fingered tots have given a new lease of life to the Red phone box in the village of Minety, Wiltshire.**

Adopted by the community, the phone box has blossomed as a pop-up plant shop where local pre-school children sell flowers and vegetables they have grown themselves.

The plant-growing initiative started as a fundraiser to earn £65 to buy red paint to smarten up the phone box but thanks to a request from Rob Hilliar of BT, who happens to be the deputy chair of the local parish council, BT volunteered to provide the correct shade of red paint.

Rob said: “The whole thing has been so successful, and such fun for the kids, that they are continuing their little enterprise.

“As plants sell, the shop is restocked and the children are also growing produce such as lettuce and tomatoes at customers’ request.

“They’ve already raised more than £150 so far towards the pre-school funds.”



# Superstar Brian May opens exhibition in the world's smallest art gallery

**Brian May had many great opportunities while he was part of legendary rock band Queen - but one of his most unusual involvements centres on a red BT phone box in North Yorkshire.**

The phone box, which has been part of the market town of Settle for over 50 years, has been turned into a fantastic mini art gallery, and Brian was one of the big names behind the project due to his passion for photography and huge desire to bring some Bohemian Rhapsody to village and community life.

The community of Settle bought the phone box for £1 as part of Adopt a phone box and turned it into one of the quirkiest art galleries in the country.

Curator Roger Taylor (no connection to Queen!) and Brian exhibited some of his beloved stereoscopic photographs, and the booth has also shown postcards, poetry, paintings and even fabric pictures.



Roger said: “The project has given the people of Settle a real sense of community and joy, and also helped to put our town of 4,000 people on the map.”

“We were bursting with pride when Brian came to open the exhibition, and his lecture packed out our small village theatre.”

“The effect on the local economy has been significant, with local holiday rentals and B&Bs even referencing the gallery on their websites as one of Settle’s latest attractions.”

“ The project has given the people of Settle a real sense of community and joy, and also helped to put our town of 4,000 people on the map ”

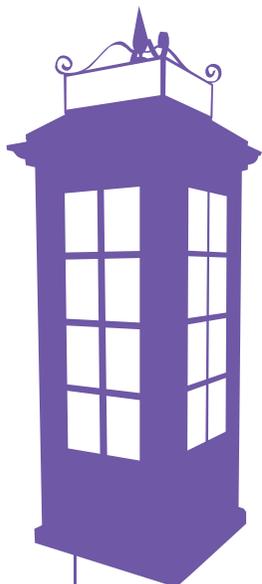




Adopt a phone box

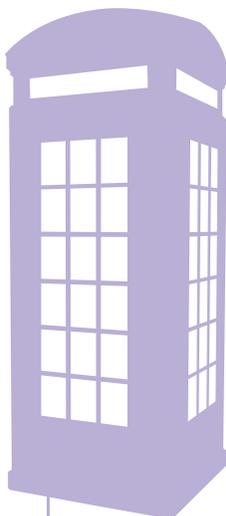
Great ideas brought together by communities just like yours, from across the UK

# Phone box design timeline



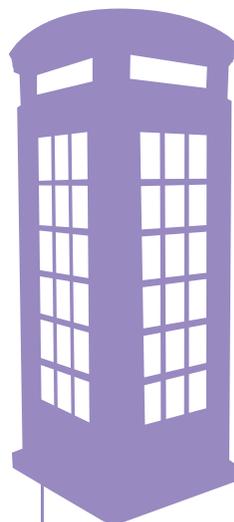
**K1**

Designed by  
Somerville & Company  
1920



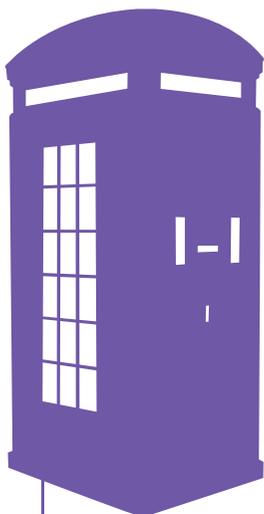
**K2**

Designed by  
Giles Gilbert Scott  
1924



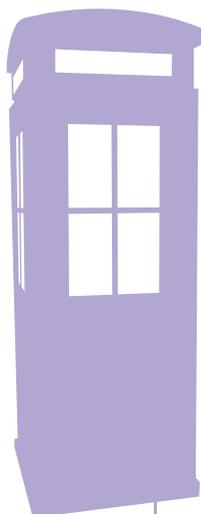
**K3**

Designed by  
Giles Gilbert Scott  
1927



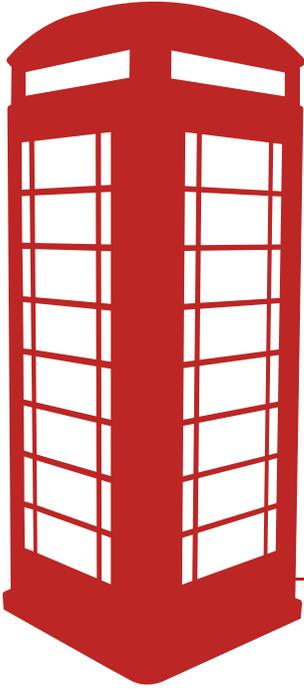
**K4**

Designed by  
the Post Office  
1927



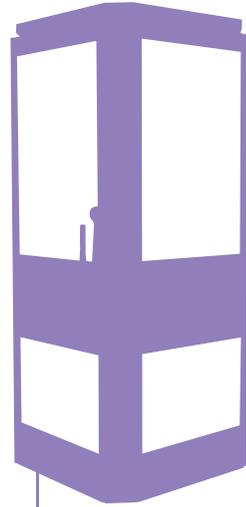
**K5**

Designed by  
the Post Office  
1934



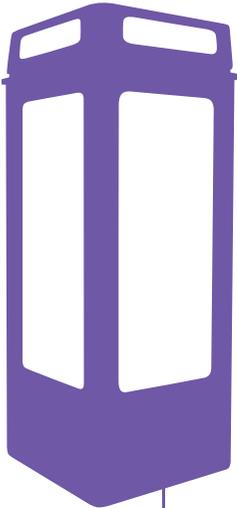
**K6**

Designed by  
Giles Gilbert Scott  
1935



**K7**

Designed by  
Neville Conder  
1959



**K8**

Designed by  
Bruce Martin  
1968



**What will yours be?**

Designed by your community

# All you need to know about adopting a phone box

**We would love you to adopt your phone box, and below are some of the key questions to help you make the decision for your community.**

## WHO can apply for the Adopt a phone box?

Any recognised local authority, parish/ community/town council, Registered Charity or any Charitable Organisation registered with HM Revenue & Customers (HMRC) for recognition as a charity throughout the UK can apply to adopt their local phone box.

## HOW much does it cost to Adopt a phone box?

To comply with legal requirements, authorities will be required to purchase the phone box from BT for a consideration of £1. Where there is power present at the kiosk the Parish / Community / Town council has the option to take ownership of the power supply, or for BT to continue to supply the power free of charge on your behalf.

## WHICH planning regulations which need to be complied with?

Any group who adopts a phone box must apply to the relevant authorities for all of the necessary consents to retain a phone box.

## WHAT happens to the power connection?

**Option1:** BT Payphones will continue to be responsible for the electrical supply and any payments to the electricity companies for that supply. BT reserves the right to disconnect the electricity supply at some point in the future, however BT will contact the kiosk owner should this become necessary. Electrical equipment cannot be connected to the electrical supply unless agreed with BT.

At the point of adoption BT will ensure that the light will be working but from then on BT will only be responsible for the supply in to the kiosk to the point of the fusebox. Any future faults beyond this point will be the responsibility of the phone box owner.

**Option 2:** The customer can choose to take over the responsibility for the electricity supply. Customers choosing this option will have to apply for an MPAN number from their electricity company. Please contact us should you wish to choose this option.

#### WHAT is an MPAN number?

A Meter Point Administration Number or MPAN number is a 21 digit reference number, used across the UK to determine electricity supply points. Where the customer chooses to own the power connection for themselves BT will require the customer's un-metered MPAN number. The number is required to transfer the billing for a phone boxes power supply. Local power companies will be able to supply this. Please contact us if you require more information on how to apply for an un-metered MPAN number.

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

Where a power disconnection has already taken place BT will not refund any payments made or reconnect the supply.

#### WHAT is the annual electricity cost for a phone box?

If the customer chooses to transfer the electricity supply over to themselves BT has no control over what electricity companies will charge for providing an un-metered supply for the lighting. This will vary depending on the electricity company chosen.

#### CONDITIONS OF TRANSFER

The following provides an overview of the key requirements for any potential transfer. Please ensure that you also review the contract agreements.

# Next steps to adopt a phone box

## WHO TO CONTACT NEXT?

Please email [payphones@bt.com](mailto:payphones@bt.com) or visit [www.payphones.bt.com](http://www.payphones.bt.com) for more information.

1. The adopting community must apply to the relevant authorities for any of the necessary consents to retain a phone box. This may involve planning consent depending on the Local Authority.
2. The phone box will be disconnected from the telecommunications network and the payphone equipment removed by BT.
3. Where a phone box is powered, the adopting community will have the option for BT to continue to supply the power free of charge or to take ownership of the supply for themselves. Please contact us should you wish to own the power connection for yourselves.
4. A signed, completed copy of the “Agreement for the sale and purchase of telephone phone boxes” must be sent to BT along with the online application. This can be downloaded from our website [www.payphones.bt.com](http://www.payphones.bt.com)
5. To comply with legal requirements, the adopting community will be required to purchase the phone box from BT for a consideration of £1.
6. The phone box 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.
7. The adopting community will be responsible for all support and maintenance of the phone box and for any liability resulting from the phone box or its use following completion of the transfer.

## WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU APPLY?

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

1. It is imperative that all the legal conditions contained within the “agreement for the sale and purchase of telephone phone box(es)” are met. Only submit an online application when the contract can be signed and returned to BT.
2. Upon receipt of both the online application and a signed contract, BT will review the application.
3. BT will sign and return a copy of the contract for all approved applications, upon which the transfer process will commence automatically.
4. Upon completing the removal of the payphone equipment from the phone box, BT will forward a Notice to Complete to the adopting community. 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 community!
6. Some applications will require the permission of the Local Authority. 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 adopting community directly.

## Did you know...

- Any recognised local authority, parish/community/town council, parish meeting or Registered Charity Organisation registered with HM Revenue & Customers (HMRC) for recognition as a charity throughout the UK can apply to adopt their local phone box
- Since the Adopt a phone box scheme was launched in 2008, over 3000 phone boxes have been adopted
- Boxes have been turned into defibrillator kiosks, art galleries, book exchanges, exhibitions and information centres and even a pub!
- Every village that fits a defibrillator in their adopted phone box can receive a free paint kit from the British Coatings Federation to spruce up the box
- Villagers in Ambridge - in BBC Radio 4's long-running drama The Archers - have adopted their own phone box
- You can check easily online to find out if your local phone box is available for adoption, but even if it isn't then you can contact us to see what we can do for you.

If you would like to find out more about adopting a phone box, please email [payphones@bt.com](mailto:payphones@bt.com) or visit [www.payphones.bt.com](http://www.payphones.bt.com) for more information.

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