

Background

BT has removing the disused Frogmore telephone kiosk. It was located on land owned by Telereal Trillium, BT's property partners. It could not therefore be released under the 'Adopt Your Kiosk' scheme which has seen some 5,000 kiosks re-purposed, often for village book exchanges or for other small community enterprises, throughout the country.



Where is the kiosk now?

The kiosk is with BT's specialist contractor, X2 Connect for factory refurbishment and onward sale. The price is £3,500, excluding VAT, including delivery to a new site. The site will require a concrete base and an electricity supply for lighting.

A return for community use?

There is interest in seeing the kiosk returned for community use. The Parish Council discussed the future of the kiosk in June 2020 and minute 90/20 concluded:

'It was agreed that the Parish Council could assist with limited funds and ownership in order to recoup VAT, should an appropriately resourced community group emerge to ensure the full funding and management of the kiosk.'

Current Position

1. An informal community 'steering group' has been formed comprising Alison Balasingam, Gethin Thomas and Peter Hadley.
2. A 'Go Fund Me' initiative was launched last month supported with door-to-door flyers, A4 posters, an article in the Kingsbridge Gazette and on-going coverage on Facebook (Spotted Frogmore).
3. £1,540 has been donated to date (15th Jan.) from 32 donors, £1,255 via 'Go fund Me' and £285 in separate donations. Donation made by way of cheques are held in a Parish Council account and 'Go Fund Me' donations will be periodically transferred into the account.
4. A £250 holding reservation fee for the refurbished kiosk has been paid to X2 Connect.
5. A generous parishioner and experienced builder has offered to provide a base for the kiosk on an appropriate new site if and when selected.

Community Uses

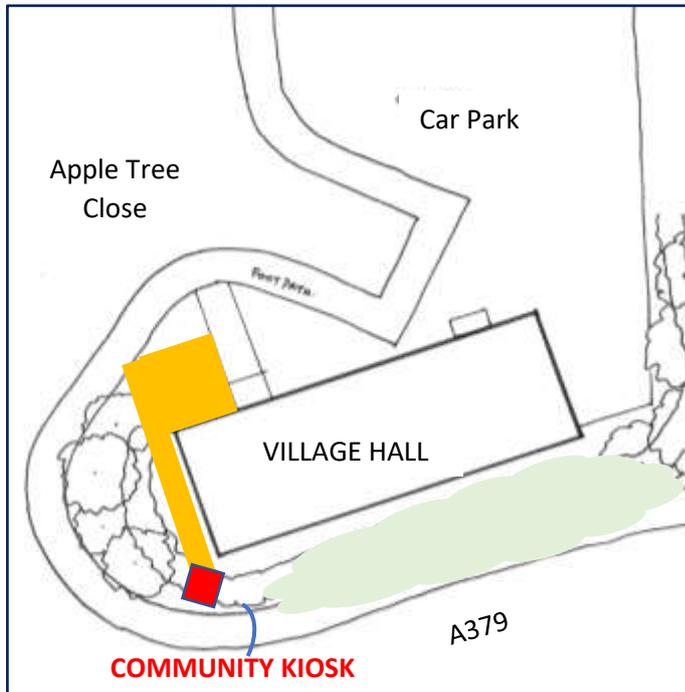
Initial proposals for the kiosk's use discussed in the village and featured on Facebook include a book exchange, plant exchange, community art / photography displays and an information point. Many villages incorporate their kiosks into events and celebrations for information and display purposes - Halloween, Christmas, Easter, Armistice, St George's Day and for Frogmore, the Regatta.

A good local reference is Thurleston Village where good use is made of their kiosk. They say 'it's all about having fun...enjoyed and appreciated by all'. It's an unlocked library- take a book and leave a book. It's decorated for high days and holidays - Father Christmas was 'in residence' last month. It's been used for parish art exhibitions. It is 'twinned' with a community kiosk in a Wiltshire village. The BBC has featured it and it's been a central feature in local competitions and events.

Siting the Kiosk

Having considered options, a site associated with Frogmore village hall is proposed, positioned to be very visible and accessible from the A379 pavement. The kiosk would be set into the existing landscaped Devon banking with possibilities for future additional planting, seating and signage.

The Frogmore Village Community Association has provisionally agreed to such a siting



The benefits would include:

- The freehold is owned by the FVCA.
- The site has prominent visibility the main road and adjacent pavement accessibility.
- An additional footpath connection to the village hall entrance and car park could be provided.
- Electrical services (for lighting) are nearby.
- Close association with the village hall will assist in community management, supervision and security.

The kiosk in this location would become a village landmark and a focal point at the village hall.

Next Steps

1. Subject to FVCA trustee agreement and continued Parish Council support the steering group will progress siting and planning consultations with South Hams District Council and Devon Highways.
2. The steering group's active fund-raising initiative will continue.
3. The Parish Council is invited to review the extent to which '*limited funds*' may be made available should a shortfall occur.



Footnote: Alison Balasingam and Gethin Thomas deserve recognition for their efforts and public-spirited work on this community project.

Peter Hadley

For the Frogmore Community Kiosk Steering Group

15th January 2021