

Case History



Covered Magazine (Journal of the British Coatings Federation) spoke to Malcolm McBeath, Parish Clerk for Welbourn in Lincolnshire. Earlier this year, a defibrillator was installed in the village telephone kiosk and, with paint kindly donated by BCF member, Spencer Coatings, the kiosk has been renovated to its former glory. (Reproduced with permission)

Malcolm, how did Welbourn hear of the “Adopt a kiosk” scheme and when did you first decide to go ahead?”

At the end of last year, The Community HeartBeat Trust (CHT) gave a demonstration of a new defibrillator in our neighbouring village and this inspired three parishioners to set about fundraising for our own defibrillator.

How was the money raised to purchase the defibrillator?

Support for this project was overwhelming, with fund raising events such as a coffee morning and supper party raising £3,200. This was topped up by Parish Council funds and a sponsored run, which meant we actually raised enough for two defibrillators, so we now have one at the each end of the village.

You had to liaise with three different bodies – BT, CHT and the British Coatings Federation. How did it work out?

In short, excellently. CHT had told us that there was a scheme for the use of defunct phone kiosks under which BT would transfer the telephone kiosk to the Parish Council for £1. So we started with BT and I coordinated the task as Parish Clerk. BT were extremely helpful in achieving the handover, even providing a special tool to enable the wiring to be accessed. CHT provided the defibrillator and then handed me on to BCF who promptly introduced me to Spencer Coatings, who quickly arranged delivery of the paint. They even supplied a can of paint stripper to assist the task.

How much work was required to get the box ready for painting?

It was hard work which took two weeks of close attention. The phone box became quite a feature in the village. Stripping the many layers of poor quality old paint was no easy task since it was extremely tough and it was found necessary to get back to the bare metal to get a decent surface; there's a great deal of surface on such a structure, fortunately a powered stripping wheel did the job admirably. This in turn required the appropriate primer and again Spencer Coatings was able to help. All the paints went on easily and dried well creating an excellent finish which has received many compliments. The final step was to remove the upper BT glass panels and replace them with transparent labels on new glass to show DEFIBRILLATOR.

What has been the reaction in Welbourn, now that the iconic red telephone kiosk, a significant part of our national heritage, has been revitalised in this way?

The end result is that, within 8 months of the inception of the scheme, we now have two defibrillators within Welbourn to cover any sudden cardiac arrest. In addition, the former BT phone box has been beautifully refreshed and relabelled and once more graces the village green, so all in all we are delighted with the result!



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