

	Meeting (No)	Full Council AMC (1)	
	Date	20th May 2025	
	Document		
	Adoption of Mostyn Square Telephone Kiosk, Parkgate	Ref No	FC1/24

Timeline and background information

At the meeting held on 04/03/25 C&E Committee considered the following:

The C&E Manager confirmed that no formal assessment had yet been made of the condition of the kiosk but the Chair was able to inform the meeting that the kiosk was in a reasonable state and would not require any immediate repairs.

It was agreed to recommend to Council that Neston Town Council should apply to take ownership of the Mostyn Square telephone kiosk in the event that BT decides it is to be decommissioned. It was noted that Parkgate Society had expressed an interest in being involved in managing the kiosk in the event of decommissioning.

At the meeting held on 18/03/25 Full Council considered the following:

Cllr Marple spoke both as a councillor and a member of the Parkgate Society to provide background information on the proposal. Members noted that the telephone box was part of the feature and landscape of Mostyn Square, Parkgate.

In the past 12 months 40 phone calls had been made, the criteria for BT to keep the box operational is 52 calls annually. An email had been received from Cllr Barker requesting that the Town Council take on the asset, residents and the Parkgate Society had also expressed interest in keeping the telephone box, which appears to be in good condition. A survey would need to be completed on the box.

Members debated the proposal, there was a degree of nervousness in attracting high spend following similar, previous acquisitions. Members queried whether the box could be handed back if deemed unsafe and a discussion was held regarding the potential of the telephone box housing a linked cash machine. Members also asked whether this could be a shared project with the Parkgate Society.

It was RESOLVED: To defer the decision pending further information, whilst speaking to the Parkgate Society with a discussion of apportioning costs.

Update from Cheshire West on 15/04/25:

"We have to respond to BT before 26th May 2025, it is a 90-day consultation run by BT, there should be notices displayed in the kiosk explaining this too.

The consultation is regarding the removal, so yes they do plan on removing the kiosk and all the equipment unless the Town Council wish to adopt or an objection is accepted by BT. We can raise an objection but would have to provide reasoning around this."

In the meantime, estimated costs have been sought from one specialist company the Council has already engaged for refurbishment of other telephone boxes in order to provide a ball-park figure to aid decision-making:

"To restore this particular kiosk including structural repairs to the back panel would be £6,250. Twin door locks would be an additional £145...

If it comes to fruition but it's not possible to incorporate the box in the aforementioned period, then the current next available slot would be August/September 2026. I would estimate the quote for that time frame at £6,500 based on rising costs for the new financial year."

The Parkgate Society were approached following Full Council's instructions.

Following its meeting on 14/04/25 the Parkgate Society sent the response below:

"We did discuss the issue of the telephone box and we agreed that in principle the Society was prepared to join with the Town Council in a joint project for the box. We did not decide on a maximum amount the Society would contribute, nor on the possible uses for the telephone box, but felt that both of these would require considerable further discussion.

I hope this is sufficient for the NTC to 'adopt' the box for now."



The Mostyn Square telephone box has a hole in the back panel (pictured) which is against a wall. The hole is not visible from the inside.

Next steps:

The deadline for a decision is 26th May 2025 so it is imperative that Council reaches a decision at the AMC on 20th May 2025.

It is recommended that Full Council adopts the telephone kiosk, in order to protect it from removal by BT and to preserve the conservation area of Parkgate.

A formal dialogue can then be opened with the Parkgate Society and a timeline for refurbishment and repairs can be worked out down the line. There is no money in the budget for this work to take place during 2025/26. Neston Town Council can set aside funding for work in future financial years, if required.

Zoë Dean
Locum Chief Officer
Neston Town Council