

Communication Data (internet) Box Mural Initiative

Recently, Councillors and Officers have received comments about the general ambiance of Iver Heath and in particular the graffiti generally and graffiti on data communication boxes. Residents have reported these to the Street Scene team via Fix My Street to be told that nothing can be done as these are not council owned assets and therefore the responsibility of the service providers. These having been contacted, it appears they are totally disinterested in removing graffiti. Several residents have approached the Parish Council where we have had to give the same reply whilst sympathising concerning the situation.

Cllr Wendy Matthews brought to the Deputy Clerk's attention an article from the Bucks Free Press to the attention of the Deputy clerk who in turn contacted Amersham Town Council to learn more about the initiative. The following response was received. *(The original article is included)*

Good morning,

Thank you for your email.

My colleague Steve Catanach is responsible for this initiative, and I have forwarded your email to him to ask him to call you when he is back in the office. He is out and about all of the time at the moment.

We had to go through the Openreach portal to obtain the permission, this took a long while.



Currently the two we have painted are situated at the bottom of Station Road, near Ambers opposite side of the road to Tesco, you could park at the far end of Tesco and cross the road for a closer look.

The other one is on Highland Road, near the junction with Weststanley Avenue, the postcode HP7 9AX should get you to the area.

We have had two of the Bloom volunteers paint these ones, but we are getting more people involved now we have further permission for other boxes.

I hope this will help you.

Kind regards



Amersham Town Council
Flint Barn Court
Church Street
Amersham
HP7 0DB
01494 434000
www.amersham-tc.gov.uk

Amersham Town Council sees murals on internet boxes

18th February



DULL-looking internet cabinets are being spruced up with pretty murals to make them look attractive.

Amersham Town Council is giving young artists the opportunity to paint on utility boxes which are located in neighbourhoods around the town.

The boxes store wires inside them which are used to provide internet connections to houses in the area.

The town council sought permission from the broadband companies to paint on the boxes, which was granted last year.

The project is now in full swing and young artists have been asked to come forward to paint their designs for residents to see.

Amersham Town Council wrote on social media: "Thanks to Steve Pye at Virgin Media/O2 (who has gone above and beyond to help us), we now have permission to paint a number of utility cabinets around town, a project started last summer.

"We already have a few local artists lined up, including a talented pupil from Stony Dean School, however, would like to engage with local youth aged 16-24."

Residents have commented on Amersham Town Council's Facebook post feeling inspired to get their local council to do the same.

Sarah Bryan said: "This is such a great idea! Aylesbury Town Council, Buckinghamshire Council is this something you could do?"

Charlotte Allchin also commented: "Reading Borough Council please can we have the same initiative in Reading?"

Inspiring mural artists are urged to get in touch by emailing michellec@amersham-tc.gov.uk.

Having visited the sites, the following pictures show the decorated boxes in-situ:



Main road – Station Road



Side residential street – Westanley Ave

This initiative is brought to the attention of members of the committee to see if they wish to consider encouraging a similar activity within the boundaries of the Parish.

Jeremy Day
Deputy Clerk
March 2023