



Old phone boxes make way for digital kiosks with cameras inside

By John Lawrence

A new style of phone box could be coming to East Finchley with the arrival of InLink digital cabinets in place of the old payphones.

BT and InLinkUK are applying to install two of the new terminals in the High Road, one outside Stewart Duncan Opticians, and the other on the opposite side of the road outside bookmakers Ladbrokes.



BT says the new cabinets provide free wifi for everyone who signs up, free phone calls, a dedicated 999 button, free device charging and touch-screen tablets to access council services, local charities, BT's phone book, maps and directions. The free wifi and phone calls are funded by advertising shown on two large digital display screens on either side of the cabinet.

Privacy concerns

However, the kiosks have raised issues of privacy. Anyone hoping to take advantage of the wifi or calls options will be required to submit their email address before they can use the services.

And each kiosk contains two cameras looking onto the street from above each digital display, which are switched off at installation, but could be used later for unspecified purposes.

Other critics say the two large 'always-on' digital advertising displays make the kiosks little more than glorified billboards.

BT says it has no immediate plans to activate the kiosk cameras. It states: "If the time comes for the cameras to be turned on, it will be for a community benefit, and we will



Digital displays: Above and above left, how the new phone cabinets will look in the High Road

notify the public through multiple communication channels, including, where appropriate, doing so with public consultation and notifying stakeholders of our intentions."



Four woods: Bowlers Arvind and Graham get ready for the summer season. Photo Finchley Bowling Club.

Summer on the bowling green

For nearly 100 years a green close to Victoria Park, off Ballards Lane, N3, has been home to Finchley Bowling Club. This summer the club launches a campaign to raise its profile and invites the people of Finchley to play outdoor bowls

"We all need a bit of gentle exercise, so make bowls your game. It's easy to play, we'll show you how and lend you a set of bowls to get you started," says campaign manager Chris Hogg. "Or join as a social member. We've the lowest-priced bar in N3 and you'll make new friends and have fun at our social events."

The club, at 6 Etchingam Park Road, welcomes new bowlers, men and women, of all ages and all levels of skill. The first year's fee is £50 and you could soon be playing competitive bowls at clubs from Winchmore Hill to Muswell Hill and Barnet to Brondesbury.

Finchley Bowling Club has been chosen to stage the Finchley & District finals and,

this summer, to host an international fixture. Public events include Bowls, Beer 'n BBQ from 1pm on Saturday 20 July with a tombola, stalls, fun bowls competitions on the green and an all-day bar.

"There's never been a more

exciting time to join," says Chris Hogg. "If you would like to take up outdoor bowls or you are interested in being a social member, please give me a call on 020 8455 5761 or email contact@finchleybowlsclub.co.uk."

Phoenix not out of the woods yet

By David Melsome

Trustees of the Phoenix Cinema say the venue is not out of financial trouble yet and are calling on people in East Finchley to come through its doors and show their support for its fight to stay independent.

The cinema's results for the year to the end of March showed that it is still some way from breaking even and that its admissions remained lower than it hoped. However, the trustees say overall financial losses were lower than expected thanks to the generosity of about 300 people who have given donations.

Alison Gold, chair of the Phoenix trustees, said they took heart from knowing that so many local people want to support the cinema and were working hard with their new Executive Director Neil Couzens to find ways to turn this situation around and remain as an independent, charity-run venue.

Alison said: "We are launching an online survey where we can find out what Phoenix

customers, and those who do not come but perhaps visit other local cinemas, can tell us what they think about us. Please look out for links on our website and on social media and do tell us what you think. Should we do more films for families perhaps?

"As ever, we will be at East Finchley Festival so please come and talk to us and tell us what you like and dislike about the cinema, and see what films we have coming up. Or show your support by buying a Phoenix tote bag or badge or even giving us a donation.

"Please choose the Phoenix to see the latest films and if you are not a Phoenix Friend, please come in and become one. The price is more than paid for by free tickets, plus discounts in lots of local businesses. Our £5

ticket offer for 15-26 year olds is a bargain."

The Phoenix has special events coming up in July like a 25th anniversary of *Interview With A Vampire*, starring Tom Cruise and Brad Pitt, which has scenes filmed at the cinema. Find out what's on at www.phoenixcinema.co.uk or pop into the foyer.

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