

# 8

## Give Kirkintilloch its own version of the Kelpies.

### Potentially the Biggest Project to Improve Kirkintilloch in a Generation.

- The Kelpies have become a Scottish Icon.
- They inspire millions of visitors.
- One of the main reasons they are so popular is their sheer scale.
- Kirkintilloch has too many shut shops and charity shops etc
- We need to attract new visitors.
- Kirkintilloch needs its own USP
- It has that USP in the fact that this is where the iconic *Red Telephone Boxes*, and *GPO Post Boxes* were manufactured until the late 1980s
- They were made in the world famous *Lion Foundry* beside the Forth and Clyde Canal which opened in 1880.
- We have real Heritage that we should exploit.
- I propose that we should build a scaled up version of the *K6 Red Telephone Box*, that most recognisable design. It should be anything up to 180ft (55mtrs) high. 20 times normal size. Sited in *Luggie Park* next to where they were built.
- A similar scaled up version of a *GPO Post Box* could be nearby.
- Looking into the **Big Red Phone Box** from outside, visitors would see an image of a 1950's teenage girl talking on the phone.
- Standing outside the *Box* could be a 1950's trench coated businessman, or a fully kitted miner, staring at their watch impatiently.
- Internally there would be 10 floors of 5000 sq feet (465 sq mtrs)
- The Top floor could be a restaurant/café with superb views of the Canal and the Campsies and the town.
- There could be a 'Dynamic Earth' type visitor's experience; transporting visitors through the history of communications; from semaphores and Morse code to satellite phones and GPS.
- There could be narratives as to how the *Red Phone Boxes* had saved many lives over the years.
- The ground floor would house the reception and visitors centre.
- Other floors could be utilised for community activities.
- Parking could be beyond Lidl encouraging folk to walk or cycle through the town towards the attraction.
- Many new jobs and businesses will be created by the influx of new visitors.
- Business Rates will improve as shops re-open.
- It will take considerable funding; perhaps from phone company sponsorships and the Lottery. And it will need political will.
- Just think of how busy Kirkintilloch is over the Canal Festival
- Imagine that kind of buzz umpteen times a year!

As the man said 'Build it... and they will come!'

