



New signs outside Aldeburgh's Moot Hall have created a stir in the town.

The signs have been erected as part of the refurbishment of Aldeburgh Museum, which has its home in the iconic Tudor building.

Designed by an architect specialising in conservation projects, the signs are made from metal which naturally rusts to a weather-beaten appearance.

One is set in wood to provide a seat for passers-by and the other is adjacent to the entrance to the Moot Hall and the Museum.

Both signs have won the approval of the Town Council, the District Council and the area's Conservation Officer and have been endorsed by the Heritage Lottery Fund, which has provided a substantial grant towards the Museum Project.

"The signs are modern to reflect the Heritage Lottery Fund's requirement to introduce 21st Century design within the setting of an historic building," said Tony Bone, Chairman of the Museum Trustees and leader of the project.

"They are still work in progress and we are in talks with the designer to consider alterations," added Mr Bone.

The Mayor of Aldeburgh, Councillor Sara Fox, pointed out that council taxpayers in the town had not contributed to the cost of the signs.

"The Heritage Lottery Fund required the Town Council to provide an element of match-funding for the project," she said, "but this money was not specifically allocated to the signs.

"The museum refurbishment is a prestigious project for Aldeburgh," she added, "with thousands of pounds of HLF funds being allocated to improving the building as a whole.

"As part of the project, the Town Council chamber and offices have been rewired, asbestos has been removed, plumbing renewed, decorated throughout and a sophisticated alarm system installed," added Cllr Fox.

She recognised the signs might not meet with approval from some of the town's residents and acknowledged there could be issues relating to their current appearance, but welcomed the interest locally their erection had generated.

"It's good to get the views of the whole community and we will listen to constructive comments," she promised.