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Sent:

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01 March 2026 15:42

To:

[REDACTED]

Planning

Subject:

[REDACTED]

Objection to BT Street Hubs in Horsham (DC/26/0119 and DC/26/0120, DC/26/0180 and DC/26/0181, DC/26/0182 and DC/26/0183

Categories:

Comments Received

Dear Planning Officer,

I am writing to formally object to the proposed BT Street Hub installations under the following applications:

DC/26/0119 and DC/26/0120 – Freshwater Parade, Bishopric

DC/26/0180 and DC/26/0181 – West Street

DC/26/0182 and DC/26/0183 – Bishopric

I strongly urge the Council to refuse these applications for the reasons set out below.

1. Impact on Character and Visual Amenity

Horsham is a historic Market Town, and its character is one of its greatest assets. The introduction of large (approximately 3m high) digital advertising screens would urbanise the town centre and fundamentally alter its character. These illuminated, constantly changing HD screens are intrusive and out of keeping with the traditional streetscape.

The Bishopric and West Street areas already contain significant street furniture. Adding further large-scale structures would create visual clutter and erode the calm, welcoming environment that residents and visitors value.

2. Pedestrian and Highway Safety Concerns

The Bishopric area is already constrained and busy, with limited pavement space and complex pedestrian movement patterns. There are particular concerns regarding:

- Reduced pavement width and obstruction of pedestrian flow
- Conflicts between pedestrians and cyclists
- Uneven surfaces and entrances (e.g., Bishopric Court and Barnes Mews)
- Reduced visibility of passengers for approaching buses
- Distraction to motorists approaching traffic lights
- Further obstruction in an area where HDC has recently consulted on improving pedestrian and cyclist access

For West Street, the proposal introduces a significant interference with sight lines east and west along the street, potentially obscuring retail units and affecting businesses.

3. Public Health and EMF Concerns

The hubs incorporate 4G and 5G connectivity, increasing radiofrequency emissions at street level.

While the applications include an ICNIRP declaration, this does not address concerns relating to individuals with metal implants, including surgical pins, joint replacements, pacemakers, stents, cochlear implants, shunts, dental implants and other embedded metal devices. A significant proportion of the population may fall into these categories.

Additionally, some of my friends who are Horsham residents have Electromagnetic Hypersensitivity (EHS) and so would no longer be able to visit or shop in these areas if these hubs were to go ahead. This is not inclusive and deeply unfair. What specific independent safeguards are in place to protect vulnerable members of the community?

Given the growing public concern regarding long-term exposure, it is reasonable to apply the precautionary principle in a busy pedestrian area.

4. Impact of Digital Advertising Screens

These illuminated, constantly changing displays are specifically designed to attract attention. In a historic market town setting, they represent an unnecessary sensory intrusion.

There are concerns that such screens could adversely affect individuals with neurological sensitivities, including autism and epilepsy. The constant light changes and motion may also distract drivers and contribute to safety risks.

5. Questionable Public Benefit

The stated benefits include provision of free WiFi and addressing digital inequality. However, free WiFi is already available locally, including at the library and in Swan Walk. The additional benefit appears limited, while the visual and environmental impact is significant.

There could be potential unintended social effects such as congregation and loitering. Given limited police presence locally, this raises legitimate concerns about behaviour management in the town centre.

I conclude that Horsham town centre should remain a safe, uncluttered, attractive and calm place to walk, shop and meet - and inclusive to all. These large digital advertising hubs are not appropriate for the character, scale or function of the Bishopric and West Street areas.

For the reasons outlined above, I respectfully request that these applications be refused.

Thank you for taking the time to read my objections.

Yours faithfully,



60 Kempshott Road

Horsham

