
Sent:

27 February 2026 15:13

To:

Planning

Subject:

DC/26/0120 & DC/26/0119, DC/26/0180 & DC/26/0181, DC/26/0182 & DC/26/0183 - objection

Categories:

Comments Received

DC/26/0120 & DC/26/0119 Installation of 1No. BT Street Hub Unit and associated advertisement panels on either side of the unit. Land at 516852 130723 Freshwater Parade Bishopric Horsham West Sussex <https://public-access.horsham.gov.uk/public-access/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal=T9H1XUIJHCO00>

DC/26/0180 & DC/26/0181 Installation of 1No. BT Street Hub Unit and associated advertisement panels on either side of the unit. Land at 516983 130647 West Street Horsham West Sussex <https://public-access.horsham.gov.uk/public-access/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal=T9TV1BIJHHZ00>

DC/26/0182 & DC/26/0183 Installation of 1No. BT Street Hub Unit and associated advertisement panels on either side of the unit. Land at 516832 130750 Bishopric Horsham West Sussex <https://public-access.horsham.gov.uk/public-access/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal=T9TV3YIJHI300>

I wish to object as follows:

- An ugly blemish to the local area, looking out of place and distracting to road users. The proposed installation would limit the flow of pedestrian movement and clutter the pavement being an obstacle for mobility impaired, sight impaired and pushchairs.
- the new unit and the advertising panels result in the proposal adding an unacceptable addition of street clutter and therefore should be refused on its impact upon character and appearance of the area. Phone boxes have a transparent form and an absence of advertising and by contrast, any hubs will add solid clutter to view lines along the street, inclusive of changing advertising.
- Payphones served an important purpose prior to the growth of mobile phones. The primary function of the proposal is to provide advertising revenue and the public benefits of the scheme are minimal owing to current technology within mobile phones.
- Unlike old BT hubs or telephone boxes with their transparency, the new plans are for entirely opaque blocks in the middle of the street which could make users of the pavement uncertain of what may be hidden behind the installation resulting in feeling unsafe.
- The glare from the lit panels cause distorted reflections / visual hazards especially on wet roads and camera screens such as CCTV.
- The applicant has not provided sufficient justification that the proposal is necessary. They are primarily an advertising hoarding with a cursory phone/ wifi/ etc attached. A blatant form of over commercialisation and exploitation by advertisers, creating unnecessary street clutter. At a time

when the adverse effects of social media and SMART phones on children and young adults are in the spotlight with campaigns and parliamentary speeches, what is the sense in placing a supersized equivalent in the public domain?

- The light pollution may be extremely intrusive to local residents and impact on neighbours' mental health, sleep quality and the ability to enjoy the area in which they live. Excessively large illuminating screen that will disturb and confuse insects and birds.
- Designed to be stimulating, the installation has no regard to those with conditions such as autism, epilepsy or mental health conditions who may be overly stimulated by the rapidly changing LED displays. 70% of disabilities are invisible and common aspects include light/noise sensibility, susceptibility to over-stimulation and attacks are common when the environment itself poses a form of psychological distress.
- The use of LED sources for lighting and display screens has an impact on human health. The registered charity LightAware says that 'the spread of new light sources has resulted in a dramatic increase in the numbers suffering light sensitivity and increased exclusion for society of light-sensitive people' who can suffer 'symptoms including eye pain, headaches and migraines, skin rashes, burning, insomnia, dizziness and nausea' from exposure to LED lighting (<https://lightaware.org/>). For some sufferers, the severity of their physical reactions to LED lighting and advertising boards requires avoidance of even minimal exposure, and the adverse impact on their day-to-day life is so extreme that they meet the test for disability under the Equality Act. For several years, LED lighting has been acknowledged to harm eyesight (Health Impacts of All Pollution – what do we know? Annual Report of the Chief Medical Officer 2017, Chapter 4 "Light pollution and health). This means that local authorities have legal duties towards them regarding planning decisions concerning the installation of lights and LED advertising boards.
- The proposed 'Street Hub' could potentially provide the Council with environmental, pedestrian and cycle movement data. However, limited details have been provided as to whether the Council would find this 'smart city' planning data to be useful in practice, nor the extent to which such data would be useful in terms of the delivery of the Council's services and planning functions. – Is this surveillance by CCTV that invades our privacy?
- These Street Hubs are bringing ultrafast Wi-Fi, 4G & 5G antennas and small cell technology (ie millimetre wave technology) to the middle of our streets. Thus they will bring microwave radiation (or radio frequency radiation / electro magnetic field RFR EMF) ever deeper into our communities where people live and work. There are NO human studies on the cumulative effects of exposure to this radiation over a lifetime. This is new technology, there should be robust safety studies. Any ICNIRP certificate is a self-certification that the apparatus is designed to comply with ICNIRP guidelines. How do we know those guidelines are being met? Or whether those guidelines are safe?
- Given that the ICNIRP guidelines specifically excludes those individuals with metal in their body or an active medical device can BT or the council confirm there is long term legal and liability indemnity for this installation? Would that cover any short- or long-term health-related adverse effects claims from the public? Are there any conditions or limits on any health-related claims? What period/duration does any insurance cover?

There are many scenarios in which metal is used in the human body for medical reasons: metal pins, plates, rods, discs, screws, joint replacement of knees and hips. Stents for urinary, gynaecological and intestinal repairs, mesh repairs and copper contraceptive coils, implantable heart loop recorders, stents and pacemakers. Implants to treat and monitor health conditions, deliver drugs or to restore bodily functions. Magnetic cerebral spinal fluid shunts. Cochlear implants for hearing loss. Dental braces, implants, metal crowns, pins, denture arches, mercury amalgam fillings. And body piercings.

- Any benefit of 5G and/or wifi provision could be made available through the installation of small cells on a simple pole or wall installation. No proposal to invest any income back into the community.
- No information provided to demonstrate how the proposed development would integrate sustainable technologies and claims of energy efficiency to promote sustainable design and construction. Without this information, it is difficult to accurately assess how the proposals would reduce energy demand in order to accomplish sustainable principles. The plans have no public benefit and the energy usage from the national grid will harm public safety through its contribution to global heating
- Likely to attract graffiti and antisocial behaviour. Who will pay for the security, cleaning, repairs and maintenance?
- The types of electronics in these hubs emit ultra-sonic frequencies which affect both wildlife and people who can hear outside of normal spectrums. These frequencies cause headaches and nausea in those who can hear them. There are no plans to monitor noise emission, nor how to regulate it.
- Power drain. Who pays for the power to support their running 24/7? At a time of energy scarcity and unaffordability, what is the need for an energy guzzling installation running 24/7? Emissions from building and installing digital advertising screens, and running them, should be considered in planning decisions. Digital advertising screens use a great deal of electricity. A conservative estimate is that one large digital advertising screen (6.4 metres x 3.1 metres) uses more electricity than 11 average UK households. This undermines the local authorities' net zero ambitions. At this time when many are struggling to heat their homes, how does the council aim to reduce energy consumption, while permitting these power draining installations?
- The proposal is contrary to the NPPF (2024) chapter 12 which aims for well-designed and beautiful places.
- It is contrary to the NPPF (2024) para 131 that states the creation of high quality, beautiful and sustainable buildings and places is fundamental to what the planning and development process should achieve. Good design is a key aspect of sustainable development, creates better places in which to live and work and helps to make development acceptable to communities.
- It is contrary to the NPPF (2024) para 141 regarding advertisements, that states the quality and character of places can suffer if these are poorly sited and designed. This installation would be a visually discordant addition in an otherwise harmonious street scene.

kind regards,


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