
From: Bloomsbury Association [REDACTED]
Sent: 17 July 2017 21:20
To: Planning
Cc: Harrison, Adam (Councillor); Vincent, Sue (Councillor); Meynell, Charlotte; Bloomsbury Association
Subject: APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION 2017/3549/P

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PROPOSAL: Installation of 1 telephone kiosk outside the Holborn Hotel, Theobalds Road.
Application for planning permission: 2017/3549/P

The Bloomsbury Association objects to this application and wishes to make the following comments.

- 1 - We note that the application is accompanied by an uncompromising letter, that no pre-application discussions have taken place with the Council's officers and that there is no Design & Access Statement. It is one of a chain of similar applications for sites of high visibility.
- 2 - No consideration is given to the impact of the appearance of the kiosk from the adjoining Bloomsbury and Kingsway Conservation Areas when it is clear from the plan and elevation that the back and side of the kiosk (of unspecified material) may be intended to include full-height advertising of an unspecified nature.
- 3 - We note that no application for advertisement consent accompanies the applications although the kiosk is clearly designed to facilitate this.
- 4 - There is a severe deficiency in public space provision in the area. Of the existing public open space, 80% is estimated to be on streets and footpaths and it is an inappropriate balance of priority that space on Theobalds Road should be cluttered by privately owned kiosks, serving a commercial purpose. Open space is a civic amenity to be enjoyed by all.
- 5 - In the area there are already many existing telephone kiosks. All are unused, unmaintained, covered in graffiti and advertisements for prostitutes; larger kiosks are used by rough sleepers and those with doors by users of crack cocaine. All make an unsightly contribution to the street scene; some are also used as urinals and present a health hazard. There is no need for more of the same. We note that this is not an application to replace existing kiosks but to add more. No management or maintenance plan accompanies the application.
- 8 - Southampton Row and Bloomsbury Way/Theobalds Road have high footfall and are particularly difficult for pedestrians to navigate. We have previously expressed concern to the Council that not enough has been done to deal with removal of existing street/pavement clutter, including the various unsightly structures that occupy the public realm. These proposals will add more clutter, further obstruct pedestrian flow and add to what is already a serious safety hazard for pedestrians.

The Association supports good quality design that will enhance Bloomsbury's streetscape, which this proposal clearly does not. With such a demonstrable breach of the Council's planning policy and of its supplementary planning guidance, we look to the Council to refuse this application.

We would be grateful if you would let us know of any further modification to the application; the decision, if it is to be decided under delegated powers, or the meeting date if it is to be decided by Committee.

Stephen Heath
On behalf of The Bloomsbury Association