

**From:** Jim.Cope@met.pnn.police.uk

**Sent:** 21 September 2018 13:53

**To:** Young, Tony

**Subject:** Planning Application - 2018/3828/P - O/S 27-28 Chalk Farm Road, NW1

FAO Tony Young

Thank you for allowing me to comment on planning application 2018/3828/P which relates to the installation of a new telephone kiosk/communications hub outside 27-28 Chalk Farm Road, NW1.

I have reviewed the documents and I object to this planning application for the following reasons.

### **Comments**

- Telephone kiosks are no longer used for their original purpose due to the fact that nearly every person is in possession of some kind of mobile device thus negating the need to use fixed land line telephone. As a result of this the phone boxes in The London Borough of Camden have now become 'crime generators' and a focal point for anti-social behaviour (ASB).
- My own previous experience of policing Camden highlights the above ASB, ranging from witnessing the taking of Class A drugs, urination, littering, the placing of 'Prostitute Cards', graffiti, sexual activities and a fixed location for begging. All of which have occurred within the current telephone kiosks. Also, due to poor maintenance any that are damaged or are dirty do not get cleaned, which makes the telephone kiosk unusable and an eye sore. Following the 'Broken Window' theory, if a location looks and feels that it is uncared for and in a state of disrepair then this leads to other criminal activity occurring within that location.
- The proposed location of the device is directly opposite the main entrance to The Stables Market which is an extremely busy location due to it being a well-known tourist attraction which is visited by thousands of people throughout the day. Due to this location also having a number of bars, restaurants and clubs it is in use up until 0100 hours. Due to the number of people dispersing this location it is imperative that they have a free and unimpeded route away from the area. When crowds stop or are prevented from moving freely then public order situations can occur. So any extra street furniture within the area would just add to this issue. Even though it is proposed to be opposite the exit the site is between a busy road junction which is used by taxis for pickups and also a 24hr bus stop. Therefore most people leaving The Stables Market will cross the road at this point to reach these. The additional street furniture will block vision for drivers at the junction and also for bus drivers approaching the stop which will increase the risk for a potential collision with a pedestrian.
- The design of the unit itself appears to be an issue as the operating unit, chargers and handset are situated on one side. Therefore if a person is using the unit they cannot see what is going on around them nor who could be approaching them from further up the foot path. Therefore creating a fear of crime whilst being used.
- The hand set unit appears to be recessed into the main unit and therefore appears from the picture graphic to create a flat surface. Chalk Farm Road and the surrounding area is well known for Class A Drugs Misuse and therefore any well-lit and smooth surface is used for the preparation of such narcotics. This recess could also be used to store small objects and conceal them if police approach a suspect drug misuser preventing them from detecting crime.

- The introduction of the unit will also increase the above ASB, as it conceals the activities of what is occurring behind the actual space and prevents police or passers-by seeing what or who is in/near there. This generates for the latter a fear of crime especially in regards to begging. As they will use the phone box as a cover and as a back rest when they sit on the floor, when the footpath is reduced in width even more by their presence pedestrians have to walk past closely and therefore this generates an uncomfortable feeling for them.
- The extra lighting produced by the kiosk and the space it uses up in the public realm will also create an added distraction to an already cluttered street space. Any CCTV monitoring the area will be effected by this and therefore any crime prevention/detection properties they produce is lost.
- Recent media reports have highlighted the increase in planning applications submitted to local planners for the construction of telephone kiosks. These were proven to have very little or no benefit to the local community especially in regards to the facilities that they are alleged to supply. The main reason busy locations with a high pedestrian and vehicle activity is chosen so that the telephone kiosk can be used as advertising space.
- For the above reasons I object to this planning application

Kind regards

Jim



Jim Cope

**Police Constable – Design Out Crime Officer**

Metropolitan Police Service

Continuous Policing Improvement Command (CPIC)

m 0208 733 3703

a. Ruislip Police Station, 5 The Oaks, Ruislip, HA4 7LF

w: [www.met.police.uk](http://www.met.police.uk) e: [Jim.Cope@met.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Jim.Cope@met.pnn.police.uk)



**Consider our environment - please do not print this email unless absolutely necessary.**

NOTICE - This email and any attachments may be confidential, subject to copyright and/or legal privilege and are intended solely for the use of the intended recipient. If you have received this email in error, please notify the sender and delete it from your system. To avoid incurring legal liabilities, you must not distribute or copy the information in this email without the permission of the sender. MPS communication systems are monitored to the extent permitted by law. Consequently, any email and/or attachments may be read by monitoring staff. Only specified personnel are authorised to conclude any binding agreement on behalf of the MPS by email. The MPS accepts no responsibility for unauthorised agreements reached with other employees or agents. The security of this email and any attachments cannot be guaranteed. Email messages are routinely scanned but malicious software infection and corruption of content can still occur during transmission over the Internet. Any views or opinions expressed in this communication are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS).

**Find us at:**

**Facebook:** <https://m.facebook.com/metpoliceuk>

**Twitter:** @metpoliceuk