
From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 25 June 2019 08:58
To: Planning
Subject: Planning Response - 2019/2689/P - O/S 72 Russell Square, WC1

FAO Joshua Ogunleye,

Thank you for allowing me to comment on planning application 2019/2689/P which relates to the installation of an electronic communications apparatus comprising a telephone kiosk outside 72 Russell Square, WC1.

I have reviewed the application and object to the proposal. I have the following comments and recommendations to make in relation to the application if successful.

Comments and Recommendations

- The issues surrounding telephone kiosks and communication devices within the London Borough of Camden are numerous and as such have become magnets for crime and anti-social behaviour. The issues surrounding them range from the placement of prostitute cards, graffiti, public urination, criminal damage and a location where Class A drugs misuse can occur.
- The main reason why they are associated with crime and anti-social behaviour is because there is not the demand for their intended use anymore, as a result of the high number of the population owning a mobile phone.
- The new design does mitigate some of the faults of the existing design and does reduce the 'foot print' taking up space within the public realm. The canopy covering the main screen/handset though is not ideal though as a result of the small shelf positioned to one side. Any flat surface which is protected from the elements will be favourable for the preparation and taking of Class A drugs. Therefore I would advise that this is removed from the design to prevent this from occurring. I appreciate the canopy contains the solar panels but also does it need to be so large? Ideally it should offer protection for a short period of time whilst the device is in use but not for extended periods by someone who can just 'loiter' at the location. This should be addressed prior to any approval.
- Orientation (If approved) – Due to there being limited vision through the device I would suggest, if it can be achieved, that the screen/handset is positioned so that it faces oncoming traffic. This will mean extra natural surveillance will be on the device and will assist to reduce any anti-social behaviour that may occur.
- Emergency Button – Applicant required to further explain how this will work and also explain if there is any mitigation in place to prevent misuse.
- Payment – Applicant required to explain how calls and access to Wifi systems to be paid for as not clear within the 'Technical Specifications'. Issues have arisen with other 'communication devices' that provide free calls for users, namely the increase in people using the device to make contact with drug dealers and the associated problems this will bring to an area.
- Maintenance Strategy (If approved) – Applicant to supply details of how often the device is visited upon installation for cleaning and maintenance. I would recommend including details of who to contact in the case of anti-social behaviour or if the device is inoperable and that these recommendations be made as part of any planning conditions. The current ones always appear to be uncared for and just add to the decline of area if not properly maintained.
- Overall I do not think enough has been done to address the impact these devices have on the public realm or acknowledge their relationship with generating crime and anti-social behaviour within a location. This particular location is well known for drug dealing and anti-social behaviour due to its central location along a very busy tourist area. This application is another example of no thought being shown where a device should be placed within the public realm or the impact it will have for pedestrian traffic and in this case a decent size foot way is reduced in size due to the device.

If the applicant wishes to question my comments I will be more than happy to be contacted.

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



NOTICE - This email and any attachments are solely for the intended recipient and may be confidential. If you have received this email in error, please notify the sender and delete it from your system. Do not use, copy or disclose the information contained in this email or in any attachment without the permission of the sender. Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) communication systems are monitored to the extent permitted by law and any email and/or attachments may be read by monitoring staff. Only specified personnel are authorised to conclude binding agreements on behalf of the MPS by email and no responsibility is accepted for unauthorised agreements reached with other personnel. While reasonable precautions have been taken to ensure no viruses are present in this email, its security and that of any attachments cannot be guaranteed.