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**From:** Jim.Cope@met.police.uk  
**Sent:** 09 March 2020 14:45  
**To:** Planning  
**Cc:** Farrant, Ben  
**Subject:** Planning Response - 2020/0388/PRE - 120 Holborn, EC1N 2TD

FAO Ben Farrant

Thank you for allowing me to comment on planning application 2020/0388/PRE for the relocation of a 'new' telecommunications device from outside 150 Holborn to outside 120 Holborn.

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 anti-social behaviour 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 close to a busy road junction at Hatton Garden and this route is heavily used by pedestrians, therefore will become an ideal position for persons wishing to beg. The 'new' phone box creates an unnecessary object that is also blocking the view of the cycle hire stand.
- ∞ The design of the unit itself appears to be an issue as the operating unit, chargers and handset are all under a shelter which will offer protection from inclement weather. Though this is there to protect a legitimate user it will also be used for loitering and anti-social behaviour. Also, 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 and this can be felt by a pedestrian walking past or a potential user of the cycle hire stand.
- ∞ Similar telecommunication devices by other companies which have offered free charging facilities have experienced anti-social behaviour. The only way to manage this would be to switch this facility off if requested by Police or Camden Council or to kept the time a person can use this facility for to a minimum. I would certainly recommend an 'Anti-social Behaviour Management Plan' created to address any issues if this application is approved.
- ∞ The defibrillator and small shelf, appears from the picture graphic to create a flat surface. High Holborn 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 surfaces could also be used to store small objects and conceal them if police approach a suspect drug misuser preventing them from detecting crime.

- ∞ 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



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