

To: Bristol City Council Development Management

Subject: Objection to erection of freestanding InLink at various sites

Bristol Walking Alliance wish to object to the following planning applications for InLink monoliths and to the associated applications (not listed here) for advertising signs:

18/01280/F Anchor Road (Os No. 1 Canons Road) Bristol BS1 5TX
18/01282/F Corner Of The Horsefair And Union Street Bristol BS1 3BB
18/01284/F Outside Debenhams The Horsefair Bristol BS1 3EE
18/01287/F Horsefair (Os No.101-105 Mcdonalds Jct Concorde Street) Bristol BS1 3JR
18/01289/F Lower Castle Street (Os Broadmead Car Park Jct) Bristol BS1 3AF
18/01291/F Broadmead (Os No.5 O2) Bristol BS1 3HH
18/01293/F Outside The Gym At Quakers Friar Merchant Street Bristol BS1 3BU
18/01298/F Union Street (Os No.15-29 Fitness 4 Less Jct Newgate Street) Bristol BS1 2DF
18/01300/F Outside Prudential Building Wine Street Bristol BS1 2PH
18/01302/F St Stephens Street (Os No.5 Tuk Tuck Jct Colston Ave) Bristol BS1 1EE
18/01304/F Outside 37 Baldwin Street Bristol BS1 1RB
18/01306/F Prince Street (Os No. 63 Queens Sq Graze Bar) Bristol BS1 4JZ
18/01308/F Outside 65 Park Street City Centre Bristol BS1 5PB
18/01310/F Outside Beacon House Queens Road Clifton Bristol BS8 1SE
18/01312/F Park Row (Os University Buildings Jct Park St Ave) Bristol BS1 5LE
18/01314/F Outside Tesco Junction Of Montague Street Marlborough Street Bristol BS1 3LA
18/01316/F Outside Happy Tat Junction Of King Square Avenue Stokes Croft Bristol BS1 3LA
18/01711/F Outside 23 To 25 St Augustines Parade Bristol
18/01713/F Outside 37 Colston Avenue Bristol
18/01715/F Outside 208 Stapleton Road Easton Bristol
18/01717/F Outside Cash Converters Wells Road Knowle Bristol
18/01719/F Outside Asda East Street Bedminster Bristol
18/01721/F North Street (Os No 256-258) Bristol BS3 1JA
18/01723/F Outside 67 Stokes Croft Bristol
18/01725/F Outside Lidl Fishponds Road Fishponds Bristol

We object to these installations for their obstructive siting, their visual effect on the public realm and their potential for invasion of privacy.

Because of the prevalence of mobile phones, the demand for street phones is negligible. For these phones, their use will be further discouraged by lack of shelter and privacy for the user and by adjacent road noise.

Obstruction

Their intended purpose is for the advertising revenue they could bring to the applicant. Their siting is on busy pavements in the city centre where pedestrian numbers are increasing and where walking is encouraged as a sustainable mode of travel. Bristol Walking Alliance objects to the installation of any unnecessary pavement furniture on the functional grounds that it limits the free flow of pedestrian movement. Pavement obstacles are a particular hazard to those with impaired vision. In particular, the proposed siting of these kiosks near to kerbs may adversely affect long cane users and those with guide dogs who may use the kerb as a navigation aid.

We have specific objections to the siting of the following InLink units as they reduce the width of the footway unacceptably - something which is particularly important for people with mobility problems. The submitted plans are misleading in the amount of space required. The phone and display panel are situated on the edge of the monolith, so anyone using the phone or display panel will occupy additional pavement space, adding a further (say) 0.5m to the effective width of the monolith.

The following reduce the pavement width to less than 2m, even when not in use:

- 18/01316/F: Outside Happy Tat Junction Of King Square Avenue Stokes Croft Bristol BS1 3LA

- 18/01719/F: Outside Asda East Street Bedminster Bristol
- 18/01725/F: Outside Lidl Fishponds Road Fishponds Bristol

The following could reduce the pavement width to less than 2m when the phone is in use:

- 18/01312/F: Park Row (Os University Buildings Jct Park St Ave) Bristol BS1 5LE
- 18/01715/F: Outside 208 Stapleton Road Easton Bristol

The following reduce the pavement width to less than 3m on heavily used pedestrian routes:

- 18/01308/F: Outside 65 Park Street City Centre Bristol BS1 5PB
- 18/01310/F: Outside Beacon House Queens Road Clifton Bristol BS8 1SE

The following are placed so that they obstruct pedestrian desire lines:

- 18/01282/F: Corner Of The Horsefair And Union Street Bristol BS1 3BB
- 18/01306/F: Prince Street (Os No. 63 Queens Sq Graze Bar) Bristol BS1 4JZ

Visual impact

We also object to these monoliths on appearance grounds. Their excessive size is due purely to their advertising potential, since the phone, wifi and other functionality could be provided on a simple pole.

Advertising, by its nature, is designed to grab the attention of those who are sighted. It can therefore distract the attention of pavement users, or road users, presenting a potential hazard to those navigating their way along, across or beside roads. This may be particularly true for modern, brightly illuminated, changing display panels.

Some of the sites are in conservation areas or adjacent to listed buildings for which their inappropriate appearance detracts from the setting which these designations are supposed to preserve.

Given that their key visual impact is the presentation of advertising, their excessive size is detrimental to the overall streetscape and to the enjoyment of the urban scene for all.

Privacy

The InLink monoliths each include three cameras, capable of monitoring activity in the street.

This introduces the potential for increased surveillance and invasion of privacy outside local authority control. Advertising companies, such as those involved with these applications, are already exploring the potential of facial recognition for measuring and adapting their messages to individuals.

As well as objecting to the siting, visual impact and privacy implications of these kiosks, we believe Bristol City Council should separately refuse to approve the use of advertising on these kiosks if such advertising would not have deemed assent, for example if the kiosk is in a conservation area, or if advertisements would be illuminated or would appear on more than one face of the kiosk, as proposed in these applications.

Roger Gimson
 Bristol Walking Alliance
 Email: enquiries@bristolwalkingalliance.org.uk
 Website: www.bristolwalkingalliance.org.uk