

From: **Animeaux**

Date: Wed, 14 Jan 2026 at 11:07

Subject: OBJECTION AWDM/1596/25

To: planning@adur-worthing.gov.uk <planning@adur-worthing.gov.uk>

Dear Planning Dept and Councillors

I am writing to fiercely object to the proposed erection and placement of a 20m mast + 9no. antennas + 2no. 300mm dishes + cabinets | at the Community Centre 2 Romany Road WORTHING BN13 3FJ.

This objection is based on visual, environmental, safety, health, social and procedural grounds, and reflects concerns shared widely by residents both locally and nationally.

First and foremost, Worthing has undergone considerable investment, time and public expense in recent years aimed at regenerating and improving the town's appearance, character and liveability. Against this background, the introduction of large-scale digital infrastructure and advertising technology appears entirely counterproductive. The proposal would introduce what have been widely described elsewhere as "electronic monstrosities" and "street junk" into the public realm — structures that are visually intrusive, industrial in character, and wholly out of keeping with a town that is trying to enhance its aesthetic appeal.

Worthing already suffers from an excess of street furniture and visual clutter. Additional tall masts, cabinets, dishes and illuminated or flickering elements will further degrade the streetscape, creating visual noise and reducing the quality of public space for residents and visitors alike. Far from enhancing the area, such installations risk becoming permanent eyesores.

There are also clear public safety concerns. Digital screens, flickering content and illuminated structures can distract pedestrians, cyclists and motorists, particularly in busy or shared spaces. This risk has been recognised by councils across the UK, many of which have refused planning permission for similar hubs on the basis of road safety, pedestrian distraction and general public risk.

At a national level, it is notable that many cities and local authorities are actively rejecting these types of installations. Councils are increasingly refusing planning permission for digital kiosks and hubs due to their adverse visual impact, contribution to street clutter, and the harm they pose to the character and amenity of an area. Worthing should not be moving against this growing trend of caution and restraint.

There is also a strong body of evidence suggesting that such hubs can become magnets for antisocial behaviour. Reports from other towns indicate that these installations attract vandalism, public drinking and drug use, particularly after dark, creating environments that residents find intimidating and unpleasant. This runs directly counter to community safety objectives and efforts to make public spaces more welcoming.

Health concerns must also be acknowledged. While compliance with ICNIRP guidelines is often cited, these guidelines are widely criticised as being outdated and not fit for purpose. The World Health Organization has classified electromagnetic radiation as a possible carcinogen, placing it in the same category as asbestos, lead and diesel exhaust fumes. This alone warrants a precautionary approach, particularly when the proposed infrastructure is not strictly necessary.

Crucially, this technology is being introduced without any meaningful safety assessment, public consultation or public consent. Residents are expected to accept significant changes to their environment, visual surroundings and potential exposure levels without having been properly informed or consulted.

It is also worth noting that, at a recent council meeting where a similar hub was unanimously rejected, Councillor Small specifically raised concerns about flickering digital advertising being detrimental to people with epilepsy and neurodivergent individuals, including those with autism. These are serious accessibility and equality issues that cannot be dismissed and must be taken into account under public sector equality duties.

In summary, the proposal:

- Adds unnecessary visual clutter and harms the character of Worthing
- Undermines regeneration efforts
- Creates potential safety risks through distraction
- Raises legitimate health and accessibility concerns
- Encourages antisocial behaviour
- Lacks proper consultation and public consent
- Runs contrary to decisions being made by many other UK councils

For all of the above reasons, I strongly urge the Council to refuse this application and to prioritise the wellbeing, safety, appearance and long-term interests of Worthing and its residents.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this objection.

Yours sincerely,

Susan Tomkins
8 Naomi Close
Eastbourne BN20 7UU