

From: **Serena** < >

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Subject: AWDM/0639/26; AWDM/0643/26; AWDM/0641/26

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

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Objection to BT hubs AWDM/0639; AWDM/0643/26; AWDM/0641/26

These ugly and unnecessary hubs would cheapen and spoil the character and appearance of the sites. There is no call for yet more digital advertising to assail our senses, and virtually everyone has a mobile phone, hence the old phone boxes have mostly become defunct, and don't need replacing, especially not by the much larger and more solid hubs.

There can be no exclusion zone with these installations, therefore people will be dangerously close to a structure emitting electromagnetic radiation (WHO puts it in the same category of harm as lead and asbestos). As no insurer will cover these structures, planning councillors are responsible for any claims of harm.

A review from the National Collaborating Centre for Environmental Health concluded that annoyance and stress from the brightness and flicker of hubs were relevant. Such flickering can cause epileptic seizures in susceptible people, and great distress can be caused to neurodivergent people. Given that levels of autism are rising exponentially, this is a serious consideration.

A flickering hub can also be a dangerous distraction to pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers alike.

One large digital screen is estimated to consume more electricity than 11 households - how does this fit in with the Council's Net Zero ambitions?

There is plenty of evidence of vandalism in other cities which have installed these hubs; furthermore, they seem to be a focal-point for drunken or drug-fuelled anti-social behaviour. This, and the extra street clutter, not to mention the ugliness of the hubs, described by one London councillor as 'street junk', has driven many councils around the country to refuse planning permission; I hope that Worthing will do the same.

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