

StreetHubs October 2024

StreetHub / Communication kiosk / Multifunction hub units / various names

We are seeing a lot of applications for these monsters in shopping centres and high streets. Most, in order to do what the Application claims, will have 5G small cells inside and naturally that will be broadcasting radiation right at street level as we all walk past them.

This Fact Sheet gives you what we know now. We will be keeping our beady eyes on these and will be updating this as we learn. Please help us by writing to the mentors address on the website.

They vary in design but are typically just under 3m high. Sometimes as a bus shelter end or to replace a public telephone box or just freestanding on the pavement.



This **SMART** technology appearing in our streets usually provides **some** or all of:

- advertising screen - LCD display screens using LED blue light, public messaging capabilities
- public wireless telecoms services eg free ultrafast public Wi-Fi, 5G, free phone line to charities
- can accommodate 4G/5G small cells to boost capacity and coverage to improve connectivity
- rapid device charging
- emergency services button
- facial recognition technology
- air quality & environmental sensors
- defibrillator (usually provided by a charity)
- 'plant a tree' scheme = green washing

Planning Applications:

- normally each installation has **2** planning application numbers: 1 for the structure, 1 for advertising
- often the applicant applies for a rash of installations in one area in the same week. Typical to find 4-8 installations for one town in same week.

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- applicants eg New World Payphones (dissolved 2016), BT, and advertisers such as JCDecaux
- most do NOT have an ICNIRP

Objections: check application to verify if any / some / all of above apply to tailor objection

Site & appearance: dominating ugly clutter, degrading, out of keeping, block or limit pedestrian flow, obstruction for mobility or sight impaired, distracting to road users / cyclists / cars

Usefulness?

- unnecessary advertising, deliberately distracting (esp to drivers if near a road), campaigns to limit childhood use of devices
- blue light harms, disturbing, flickering, epilepsy, mental health, impact on moths and wildlife
- power use / energy consumption
- intrusion to privacy - Is data collected and/or stored? now or in future?
- they have been reported as interrogating smartpones as people walk by and changing the adverts to match what they found.
- no ICNIRP certificate to show this telecoms equipment complies with safety guidelines
- sustainability of materials / installation lifespan from extraction, processing, production, use, maintenance and recycling