



Bath Heritage Watchdog

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APPLICATION NUMBER: 17/04218/LBA

ADDRESS: Bath Spa Railway Station

PROPOSAL: External alterations for the permanent installation of four new Radio Microphone Antennae and two gate-line PCs to enhance the existing Customer Information System (CIS) to include associated new containment where required and making good as appropriate

CASE OFFICER: Laura Batham

DATE: 11 September 2017

COMMENT: OBJECTION

Bath Heritage Watchdog objects to this application.

The reasoning for the equipment is understood, however, it is stated that this is to 'enhance' the existing CIS rather than be essential. We believe that proposed is harmful and therefore unacceptable.

GATELINE PCS

There is a lack of information in respect of the gateline PCs. Firstly the entire runs of the trunking are not given. The photomontages finish part way up the wall and a photo of a piece of ceiling is shown with the statement '*following ceiling cornice round to distribution board*'. In order to fully assess the harm it is essential that there is a fully annotated elevation drawing showing the full runs. A photomontage is extremely helpful but is no substitute for accurate drawings. We have concerns that the trunking will be potential harmful to any cornice work.

No information has been given as to whether any alternative positions have been considered or why they were dismissed. It is difficult to assess from the limited information provided. Is it not possible given the advances in technology for the system to make use of wifi technology thereby eliminating trunking? Is it not possible for any equipment to be on a standing plinth or handheld thus not fixed to the walls?

RADIO MICROPHONES

The positioning of the radio microphones is less contentious. However we do query whether they could actually be attached to other trunking or equipment to reduce the amount of intervention to the historic fabric. We would also request the conditioned removal of other trunking/wiring/equipment/adverts as an offset to the proposed works.

SUMMARY

This is a poorly presented application with a lack of information. We are unconvinced of the necessity for the proposed gateline PCs and believe that there are less harmful alternatives that should be considered.

The works, as proposed, are considered to be harmful to the listed building and original historic fabric contrary to the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas Act) 1990, Section 12 (Conserving and enhancing the historic environment) of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and Policy HE1 of the Core Strategy/Placemaking Plan and should be refused in its current format.