



## Bath Heritage Watchdog

contact@bathheritagewatchdog.org

APPLICATION NUMBER: 17/06242/FUL

ADDRESS: Kingston Parade

PROPOSAL: Use of public highway for the siting of an outdoor photopgraphy exhibition (5no structures) from 18th April 2018 to 30th April 2018 as part of Art and Film Festival

CASE OFFICER: Chris Griggs-Trevarthen

DATE: 18 February 2018

COMMENT: OBJECTION

\*\*\*\*\*

Bath Heritage Watchdog strongly objects to this application.

The number of applications relating to the wholesale use of Kingston Parade is increasingly causing concern.

Kingston Parade is at the heart of the World Heritage Site and arguably part of the most historic environment in the city. It forms part of the setting of numerous listed buildings, not least the Abbey and the Roman Baths. It is used by tourists (and locals) continuously whether to rest a while, have their lunch, take photos or listen to the various buskers who perform there. It undoubtedly appears in the majority of photos taken by visitors and distributed worldwide. Any proposals for an alternative use (for whatever length of time) have to be carefully weighed up against the adverse impact large and visually obstructive structures would undoubtedly have.

The proposal for consideration is a group of lightboxes as part of a University of Bath photographic exhibition. Whilst it is accepted that there have been small photographic exhibitions in the Kingston Buildings area previously, they have consisted of photos on stands without illumination, with the most recent focussing on the untold stories of inventors connected with Bath.

The proposed lightboxes are 2.1m high, 1m wide and 0.32m in depth. They are not small structures. The proposed location is immediately in front the lower row of seats in Kingston Parade. They will form a tall barrier cutting off and isolating those sitting there. The illumination is intrusive and unnecessary and will prevent visitors from enjoying the area and taking photos. It is an unacceptable proposal and there must be a better location without illumination.

In addition there will be electrical wire runs (which appear from the documentation to be at pavement level) and which most people recognise are a pedestrian hazard and make life difficult for the infirm, those with wheelchairs and prams.

The proposal is considered to be detrimental to this historic area contrary to S16 and S72 of the Planning (Listed Buildings & Conservation Areas) Act 1990, Section 12 'Conserving & Enhancing the Historic Environment of the NPPF and Policies DW1, D410, HE1 and should be refused.

We note that the other application for the use of Kingston Parade (18/00284/FUL) was withdrawn this week.