

10 Other public space issues



10 Other public space issues

10.1 INTRODUCTION

A number of current issues are briefly discussed below under the following headings:

- Public art
- Graffiti and vandalism
- Recycling
- Street advertising
- Telephone call boxes
- CCTV and security signage
- Traffic light/utility cabinets.



10 Other public space issues

10.2 PUBLIC ART

Art in public spaces is actively encouraged and has been incorporated into several public space schemes. It can contribute greatly to the sense of place. A procedure is being developed with the Arts section to encourage and organise further art contributions and develop a long-term strategy. It is important that pieces of art are sufficiently durable for their location and contribute positively to the overall design of a scheme.

10.3 GRAFFITI AND VANDALISM

Throughout the Borough the risk of mindless damage is ever-present.

The durability and replacement of items where necessary needs to be addressed at the design stage. The Council operates a graffiti removal service for residents (free) and also for commercial properties. Undertaking to remove 90% of graffiti within 5 working days (24 hours if offensive or in a sensitive site). The service is also free for small businesses (fewer than 9 staff nationally) with a small annual fee for larger businesses. Reporting of graffiti for removal can be made via the public website or telephone 0845 61 22 660. A project team has been set up to direct additional resources effectively to combat the problem and improve response times, particularly in sensitive areas.



Hampton Court



Champions Wharf

10 Other public space issues

10.4 RECYCLING

A policy has been agreed for not siting recycling facilities in sensitive locations, such as riverside sites, by open spaces, within the setting of listed buildings.

Key sites have been targeted to improve their appearance, and new guidelines have been produced for graphics on containers.

For business refuse it is proposed that a more muted colour than the existing is used for containers, for example dark blue.

10.5 STREET ADVERTISING

Freestanding pavement cabinets are not considered acceptable. The character of the Borough is not well suited to commercial street advertising, although some advertising may be acceptable, subject to advertisement consent. Possibilities may include:

Banners – fitments to light columns may be possible in a limited number of locations. These work best when specially designed brackets are used.

Bus shelters – some advertising is allowed on bus shelters but there is a need to see that this does not cause safety problems or obscure good views.

Car parks – a limited number of car parks may be suitable for advertising, which could be combined with notice boards. The aim from any advertising should be to create other benefits for the street scene.

Sponsorship – commercial signage indicating sponsorships will not generally be allowed.



The National Archives



The National Archives

10 Other public space issues



Historic K6 call box

10.6 TELEPHONE CALL BOXES

Planning control over telephone call boxes is limited although they may have a considerable impact on the street scene. This is particularly true of the proliferation of independent company boxes that appeared in the 1990's. Some of these are now out of service and should be removed.

There is a diminishing demand for standard call boxes with the increased popularity of mobile phones. As the design of BT boxes is often poor, with the exception of the historic K2s and K6s, reducing the numbers of such boxes is beneficial to the townscape. Better modern designs are badly needed, although historic ones would work well in townscape terms in certain locations. This is being pursued with BT.

10 Other public space issues



Intrusive siting of CCTV



Intrusive siting of CCTV

10.7 CCTV, TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SIMILAR EQUIPMENT

Design and siting problems

Whilst CCTV equipment improves safety, fittings can be ugly. Particular design problems in terms of appearance have included the following:

- Ugly 'jumbo' bases and thick posts out of scale with their surroundings
- Camera housing not painted to match post colour
- Ancillary equipment boxes
- Intrusive siting, particularly in sensitive locations, such as close to listed buildings
- Associated threat of warning notices.

10 Other public space issues

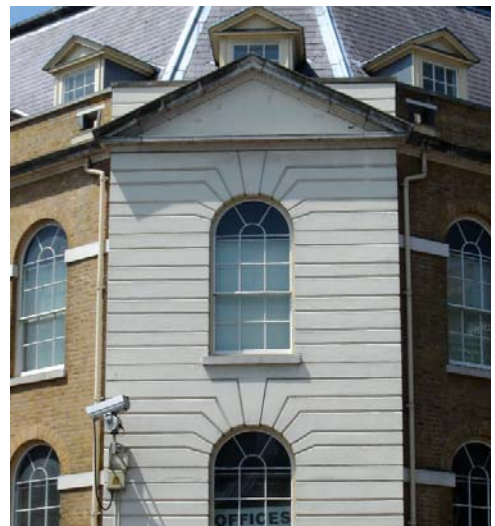
Design and siting guidelines

- Avoid obstructing key views and affecting the settings of listed buildings
- Fix wherever possible to buildings or existing lamp columns
- Where a separate post is needed, 'jumbo' bases are unlikely to be acceptable unless hidden by shrubbery or walls. Consideration should be given to placing ancillary equipment underground
- 'Heritage' embellishments are not recommended, although there may be instances where historically accurate housings could be utilised
- Where new posts are used, these should be as slim as possible and relate in form and scale to lighting columns
- Colour – post (if applicable) and camera housing should be the same colour and relate to that of surrounding street furniture.

The above guidelines apply equally to speed cameras, bus electronic equipment, Thames Water 'bollards', and telecommunications and cable TV equipment.



CCTV camera sited on building



CCTV camera sited on building

10 Other public space issues

10.8 TRAFFIC LIGHT/UTILITY CABINETS

These should be sited as unobtrusively as possible, and where possible located underground or located within posts.

Profiled surfaces should be used to discourage flyposting, but textured paint is not acceptable as it provides an ugly finish.



Poorly sited cabinets



Cabinet with profiled surface