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Our ref: CTIL_302886_TEF_88816_VF_12587

Cllr Dave Rawson
Member's Services Office
Manchester City Council PO Box 532
Town Hall Extension
Manchester
M60 2LA

cllr.dave.rawson@manchester.gov.uk **VIA EMAIL**

22nd January 2021

Dear Cllr Rawson

PROPOSED UPGRADE TO EXISTING RADIO BASE STATION INSTALLATION AT CTIL_302886_TEF_88816_VF_12587, WHALLEY RANGE AFC, WHALLEY RANGE AFC, KINGS ROAD, WHALLEY RANGE, MANCHESTER, GREATER MANCHESTER, M21 0XX, N.G.R E: 382846 N: 393959.

Telefónica UK Limited has entered into an agreement with Vodafone Limited pursuant to which the two companies plan to jointly operate and manage a single network grid across the UK. These arrangements will be overseen by Cornerstone Telecommunications Infrastructure Ltd (Cornerstone) which is a joint venture company owned by Telefónica UK Limited and Vodafone Limited.

This agreement allows both organisations to:

- Pool their basic network infrastructure, while running two, independent, nationwide networks
- Maximise opportunities to consolidate the number of base stations
- Significantly reduce the environmental impact of network development.

Cornerstone and Telefónica are in the process of progressing a suitable site in the Whalley Range area for a radio base station. The purpose of this letter is to consult with you and seek your views on our proposal before any planning submission is made. We understand that you are not always able to provide site specific comments, however, Cornerstone and Telefónica are committed to consultation with communities on our mobile telecommunications proposals and as such would encourage you to respond.

As part of Telefónica's continued network improvement program, there is a specific requirement for an upgrade to the existing installation at this location to provide enhanced 2G, 3G and 4G coverage and capacity, and new 5G coverage ensuring that this area of Whalley Range has access to the latest technologies.

Mobiles can only work with a network of base stations in place where people want to use their mobile phones or other wireless devices. Without base stations, the mobile phones and other devices we rely on simply won't work.

Please find below the details of the proposed site.

Our technical network requirement is as follows:

CTIL_302886_TEF_88816_VF_12587, WHALLEY RANGE AFC.

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The site is needed to provide enhanced 2G, 3G, 4G coverage and capacity for Telefónica as well as new 5G service provision to ensure that its customers experience access to the latest technologies currently available. The installation will also meet the extra demands on the network in this area as new technologies improve increasing the demand for 4G and 5G technologies. In line with both operators joint agreement, this upgraded site will ensure that Vodafone as well as Telefónica will be able to utilise the same site and maintain and enhance their coverage in the area as well.

The Government recognises that widespread coverage of mobile connectivity is essential for people and businesses. People expect to be connected where they live, work, visit ad travel. That is why the Government is committed to extending mobile geographical coverage further across the UK, with continuous mobile connectivity provided to all major roads and to being a world leader in 5G. This will allow everyone in the country to benefit from the economic advantages of widespread mobile coverage. As well as improved mobile signal, 5G networks are also crucial to drive productivity and growth across the sectors that local areas are focusing on through their emerging Local Industrial Strategies. Enabling and planning for 5G implementation is central to achieving the Government's objective to deliver property at the local level and enable all places to share in the proceeds of growth.

The Government is determined to ensure the UK receives the coverage and connectivity it needs. To this end, the Government wants to be a world leader in 5G, the next generation of wireless connectivity, and for communities to benefit from the investments in the new technology.

The case for 5G is compelling as it will bring faster, more responsive and reliable connections than ever before. More than any previous generation of mobile networks, it has the potential to improve the way people live, work and travel, and to deliver significant benefits to the economy and industry through the ability to connect more devices to the Internet at the same time, creating the so-called "Internet of Things". This will enable communities to manage traffic flow and control energy usage, monitor patient health remotely, and increase productivity for business and farmers, all through the real-time management of data.

The demand for mobile data in the UK is increasing rapidly, and as households and businesses become increasingly reliant on mobile connectivity, the infrastructure must be in place to ensure supply does not become a constraint on future demand.

A number of options have been assessed in respect of the site search process and we consider the best solution is as follows:

WHALLEY RANGE AFC, KINGS ROAD, WHALLEY RANGE, MANCHESTER, GREATER MANCHESTER, M21 0XX, N.G.R E: 382846 N: 393959.

The proposed works comprise the proposed works comprise the installation of a replacement 20.0m monopole with open head frame supporting 12 no. antennas, ground based equipment cabin and ancillary development thereto.

The operators are proposing to upgrade their existing installation to ensure the latest high quality, reliable, secure communications technology is able to be provided from this location. The amendments to the existing scheme are essential in order that customers' handheld devices continue to operate for the purposes in which they have become accustomed, accessible wherever they are whether that be indoors or outside.

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As this is an existing ground based installation and the amendments are relatively minor in nature, this is sequentially the most preferable site for the operators to upgrade their existing service provision to this cell area. As such, no other options have been considered.

The Local Planning Authority mast register and our records of other potential sites have already been reviewed, the policies in the Development Plan have been taken into account and the planning history of the site has been examined.

All Telefónica installations are designed to be fully compliant with the public exposure guidelines established by the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP). These guidelines have the support of UK Government, the European Union and they also have the formal backing of the World Health Organisation. A certificate of ICNIRP compliance will be included within the planning submission.

In order to give you time to send your comments or request further information, we commit to allow at least 14 days before an application is submitted to the Local Planning Authority. This 14 day period starts from the date at the top of this letter.

We would also be grateful if you could please advise of any local stakeholders or groups that might like to make comments. For your information pre-consultation letters and a set of plans have been sent to the local planning officers, the other local ward councillors for Chorlton Park Ward (Cllr M-S Godwin and J Midgley) and the local MP Afzal Khan.

We look forward to receiving any comments you may have on the proposal.

Yours sincerely



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(for and on behalf of Cornerstone and Telefónica UK Ltd)