

Our ref: CTIL_30320101_TF_89139

Chair of Governors
Varna Community Primary School
Chisholm Street
Openshaw
Manchester
M11 2LE

Email: admin@varna.manchester.sch.uk

VIA EMAIL

18th August 2020

Dear Sir/Madam

PROPOSED RADIO BASE STATION INSTALLATION AT CTIL_30320101_TF_89139 SW NEAR TO SMITHFIELD MARKET, WHITWORTH STREET EAST, OPENSHAW, MANCHESTER, GREATER MANCHESTER. M11 2NQ. NGRS E:388527 N:397334

Cornerstone Telecommunications Infrastructure Ltd (Cornerstone) is a joint venture company owned by Vodafone Limited and Telefónica UK Limited, commonly known as O2, who manage a single grid network across the UK for these companies. This agreement allows both organisations to pool their basic network infrastructure, while running two, independent, nationwide networks. It maximises opportunities to consolidate the number of base stations and where possible can significantly reduce the environmental impact of network development.

5G rollout has begun and both Vodafone and Telefónica are in the process of upgrading their existing radio base stations in their single grid network wherever possible. As part of this continued network improvement program, there is a specific technical requirement to provide new 5G coverage in this area of Openshaw. An existing streetworks style base station has been identified in the area, however it cannot accommodate for both operators latest requirements. In order to fit in to the operator's single grid network, an additional new streetworks style base station is required for Telefónica service in close proximity to the existing streetworks style base station that will be retained and in due course upgraded with improved Vodafone service.

The proposal, which we feel is the best solution to serve our customers in the local community, will include: the installation of a 20m slim-line column supporting 6 no. antennas, 2no. transmission dishes, 2 no. equipment cabinets and ancillary development thereto including a GPS module and 3 no. Remote Radio Units (RRUs) at the **SW NEAR TO SMITHFIELD MARKET, WHITWORTH STREET EAST, OPENSHAW, MANCHESTER, GREATER MANCHESTER. M11 2NQ. NGRS E:388527 N:397334**. This is because the operator is limited in siting options as there is a requirement to provide equivalent replacement coverage and capacity for this area of Openshaw. The replacement of an existing site means that the operator has to be located as close as possible to the existing installation in order to maintain the provision of equivalent coverage and capacity to the surrounding local area. This is the nearest suitable location that the operator is able to position their replacement apparatus.

The proposed height at 20m is essential in order to provide equivalent replacement coverage to the target coverage area. 5G new radio technologies operate in higher frequency bands than older technologies. Since it operates at higher frequencies where attenuation of the radio signal is naturally higher and the effects of clutter are greater it will normally require a higher structure to achieve the same coverage footprint.

In order to minimise the width of the proposed column, the antennas are split in to a dual stack formation where 3 antennas will be located at the top of the column and the other 3 antennas will be located underneath. This makes the lower antennas 3.5m lower than the top of the pole. Thus, if the column were to be any lower, the antennas would not be able to operate effectively nor reach the target coverage area.

The column is a simple, functional, vertical structure necessary to provide replacement and new service provision to Openshaw and the surrounding area. There are other vertical structures in the streetscene which will help it assimilate in to the local environ. The column is proposed to be finished in a grey colour but can be coloured any other colour that the LPA consider appropriate.

The cabinets are designed to appear like other statutory undertakers equipment cabinets. They are small for telecommunications apparatus and are proposed to be coloured green to assimilate with other equipment cabinets commonly found in urban environments. The cabinets can be installed under the operators permitted development rights, but have been included on the plans and in the description in order to remain fully transparent.

The RRUs are designed to make the antennas more efficient and reduce the need for equipment cabinets at ground level, therefore minimising ground level clutter in this area. They are located underneath the lowest set of antennas, out of the natural eye line of the casual passer-by and therefore will not appear prominent in the streetscene.

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 fact, because of the very low power utilised by telecommunications sites the emissions will be many times lower than the ICNIRP threshold.

We would welcome your views (within 14 days of the date of this letter) before we finalise the proposal and submit the planning notification to the Local Planning Authority.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Simon Batchelor".

Simon Batchelor
Consultant Surveyor
Clarke Telecom Ltd
Email: simon.batchelor@clarke-telecom.com
Tel: 07841 684860
(for and on behalf of Telefonica UK Limited)