

DESIGN AND ACCESS STATEMENT

PLANNING
REPLIED
06 MAY 2010
POSTAGE
APPLICATION

This Design and Access Statement is provided in conjunction with the Supplementary Information Template, drawings and supporting material that was submitted with this planning application.

This statement is submitted pursuant to Article 4C of the Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995 (as amended).

In accordance with the Code of Best Practice on Mobile Phone Network Development[1], and published Government guidance, this proposal was drawn up having regard to the need for good design.

In particular:

- Considerations of design and layout are informed by the context, having regard not just any immediate neighbouring buildings but the townscape and landscape of the wider locality. The local pattern of streets and spaces, building traditions, materials and ecology all help to determine the character and identity of the development.
- The scale, massing and height of proposed development have been considered in relation to that of adjoining buildings; the topography, the general pattern of heights in the area; and views, vistas and landmarks.

The following general design principles have been taken into account in respect of this proposed telecommunications development:

- A proper assessment of the character of the site and the wider area concerned.
- Consideration has been shown whilst designing the scheme so that it has an appropriate layout and scale to that of its surroundings.
- That the design shows an appreciation of context and setting of the installation;

[1] Paragraphs 120-126.

vodafone

SITE CONDITIONS, TECHNICAL CONSTRAINTS, LANDSCAPE FEATURES AND CAPACITY REQUIREMENTS

Introduction

It needs to be borne in mind that the proposed development is for a mobile telecommunications installation. Hence, access is deliberately restricted, where appropriate, for the security of the installation.

Pre Application Discussions and Negotiations

A pre application consultation letter was sent to Manchester City Council Planning Department on 12th April 2010, detailing the recent agreement between the Vodafone group and the Telefonica O2 group regarding their intentions to share their network infrastructure and to consolidate the existing 2G and 3G sites. This letter informed Manchester City Council of Vodafone's proposals to install a shared radio base that could accommodate O2. The LPA's view of these proposals was sought;

Janine Renshaw-Livesey responded via email on 21st April 2010, requesting further information regarding the proposed development, specifically details of the alternative sites considered and a copy of the site drawings. The requested information was sent to Ms Renshaw-Livesey on 23rd April 2010 via email.

Ms Renshaw-Livesey telephoned on 27th April 2010, enquiring whether any solution had been considered prior to selecting the street pole in order to address the coverage deficiency. Ms Renshaw-Livesey was informed that Vodafone and O2 have a very specific requirement to provide coverage along Oxford Road and to increase 3G capacity and coverage to Manchester University. Vodafone's preferred option was to site apparatus upon Crawford House, Manchester University, however Manchester University no longer host telecommunications apparatus therefore a new ground based structure was required as there are no available building within the cell search area that would fulfil both operators coverage requirements.

Ward Councillors O'Callaghan, Smitherman and Priest were sent consultation letters on the 12th April 2010. To date no comments have been received.

Given that the proposals constitute mast sharing and therefore eliminate the need to install a second ground based mast elsewhere in the immediate locality and in the

absence of any suitable alternative location, it is considered that the proposals are acceptable and conform to both local planning policy and national planning guidance. In this regard it was considered acceptable to progress to the application stage.

Documentation Submitted with Application

- Plans and elevations
- Any other relevant illustrations or photomontages
- Supporting statement

Design Component

- The proposed development will consist of a Vodafone mobile phone base station that will provide 3G coverage to the surrounding area for Vodafone and Telefonica O2.
- The proposed installation will consist of a 17.5 metre high Hutchinson Engineering Jupiter 811 street pole with 6 no. 3G antennas concealed within a 480mm GRP shroud.
- The design chosen for this proposed development is a galvanised steel pole, which will match the existing street lighting columns. This type of installation meets Vodafone's technical requirements and it is also considered to be less visually intrusive then a more traditional telecommunications installation which would be bulkier in appearance than the proposed street pole.
- The proposed installation is set back from the highway upon a 13.3 metre wide pavement and situated against a back drop of trees, the siting means that there will be minimal intrusion upon the surrounding public space.
- The 15 metre high trees that are around the site dictates that the proposed installation is at the proposed height in order for the radio signal to clear the surrounding clutter, enabling the radio signal to propagate over the entire cell area.
- There will also be an additional equipment cabinet ancillary to the proposed street pole which will measure 1.84m x 0.44m x 1.70m respectively. The equipment cabinet will be made of galvanised steel and painted grey.

- The proposal will offer improved services and capabilities to the local community, creating better connections that will have social and economic benefits for the area.
- Every day, 20,000 people use the Vodafone network to make emergency calls – in many cases this will mean ambulances can be on the scene faster and police can get a head start in apprehending criminals.
- In the commercial world, companies of all sizes, from sole traders to multi-nationals, take for granted the benefits to business efficiency that mobile communications bring. The added security for travellers is a benefit many people will recognise and most families have come to rely on the convenience and reassurance of instant mobile communications.

Access

Radio base stations are not designed to be accessible by the public. Therefore no specific public access provisions or sustainable forms of transport are required to be incorporated into the design of or connections to the proposal. With this borne in mind the proposals have also shown consideration for the safety and security of the apparatus and local community as the proposed equipment cabinets are locked and alarmed in order to prevent public access to the site and as such is secure by design.

On average, Vodafone's engineers will attend a site twice a year for routine maintenance. The antennas do not need to be physically maintained once the column is in situ. During the maintenance visits, the antennas might be "optimized." This is when the orientation or down-tilt of the antennas is altered to maximise the coverage offered by the installation. All of these changes to the antennas orientation or down-tilt are done remotely by an engineer working in the cabinet at the base of the column so there is no need for a cherry picker on any of the maintenance visits. The engineer's maintenance vehicle will be located off Oxford Road and these routine visits are done on foot.