*Design, Access and*

*Supporting Statement*

*in respect of Full Planning Application*

*On behalf of Everything Everywhere Ltd*

*Re: Westheath Road*

*Our ref: GLN7446*

*Date: 10 February 2012*

*Marcus Kaiser*

*Galliford Try Communications*

*Crab Lane*

*Fearnhead*

*Warrington*

*Cheshire*

*WA2 0XR*

*07411 452539*

**Introduction**

This statement forms part of an application submitted on behalf of Orange PCS Limited. It has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of Section 42 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 which requires the submission of a Design and Access Statement to accompany planning applications.

**Proposed Development**

**The Site**

The application site is located in the area of Hampstead Heath, north of Hampstead. Access is currently gained directly off West Heath Road which runs east-west adjacent to the southern edge of Hampstead Heath.

The site is located on a pavement on the south side of West Heath Road, 20m east of the junction with Templewood Avenue. The existing pole is to the front of the footpath, with the cabinet set back 4m to the south to the rear of the pavement, adjacent to the boundary wall. The site area is classed as adopted highway. The area is predominantly residential detached housing east, west and south with Hampstead Heath to the north.

The application site comprises the land required for the proposed telecommunications installation including the equipment housing.

The site is within the Redington Frognal Conservation Area.

**The Proposal**

Consideration has had regard to technical, engineering, environmental and land use planning considerations within the design of the proposed telecommunications installation.

The principal components of the proposed development are outlined on the planning application form and Supplementary Information Template, and the general layout illustrated on the attached site layout plan and elevations (Drawing Numbers GLN7446/GA/101A,102A,103A,104A,200A).

The proposed development consists of the replacement of the existing omni antenna with 3 No. antennas, to be contained within the existing shroud, together with the addition of 2 No. cabinets and meter pillar and the removal of 1 No. cabinet on the pavement south of the column.

The development will not cause any undue visual intrusion due to the sensitive siting of the proposed cabinets, adjacent to the cabinet to be removed. These are located in front of a 1.5m brick wall, will be coloured black and benefit from utilising the wall and adjacent trees as a backdrop when approaching along West Heath Road. The proposed antenna swap on the column is to be entirely retained within the existing shroud on the pole, thus no visual alteration will be seen.

**Access**

**Construction and Maintenance Access**

Access to the site is available directly off West Heath Road. For construction, the appropriate procedures for arranging the traffic management will be undertaken if required.

**Public Access**

Radio base stations are not designed to be accessible by the public. Therefore no specific public access provisions are required to be incorporated into the design of the proposal.

**Regulatory Statements**

Orange is authorised to operate a public electronic communications network and supply public electronic communications services under the provisions of the Telecommunications Act 1984, the Communications Act 2003 and the Electronic Communications Code (Conditions and Restrictions) Regulations 2003 and aims to meet all reasonable customer demand for that service.

Despite the already high level of penetration the total number of reported mobile customers in the UK continues to grow. At the end of March 2004 the five UK Network operators reported a combined customer base of 54.7 million compared to 49.7 million a year previously[[1]](#footnote-1).

In 2003, average household expenditure on mobile telecoms services (calls and text messaging) was greater than expenditure on fixed voice services |calls and access) for this first time.

As at the first quarter 2004, the Orange UK customer base stood at nearly 14 million, a 67% increase since 2000 and consolidates Orange’s position as the number one UK operator in terms of active customers.

**How the System Works**

I enclose a self-explanatory document entitled ‘Network and 3G information’. This has been produced by Orange and explains how mobile phones work, the technical issues behind the siting of base stations and also outlines the system commonly referred to as 3G or Third Generation.

**Planning Policy**

**General Policies**

National guidance on telecommunications in England is contained in National Planning Policy Guidance Framework (NPPF)

An indication of the importance the government attaches to telecommunications can be gauged from the first paragraph of the Appendix ‘Modern telecommunications are an essential and beneficial element in the life of the local community and in the national economy’.

NPPF encourages authorities and operators to work together and use sympathetic designs and camouflage to minimise the impact of development on the environment. Particularly in designated areas the aim should be for apparatus to blend into the landscape. The telecommunications industry is encouraged to continue to develop innovative design solutions, in terms not only of the structure of masts and antennas but also the materials and colouring.

It is felt that the proposed design within the application is sympathetic to the surrounding area.

The following local advice was followed during the siting and design of this proposal:-

**London Borough of Camden – Development Management Plan**

**Statement 2 Telecommunications**

All applications for telecommunications apparatus will be considered in accordance with PPG 8 Telecommunications and any other relevant present or subsequent national planning policy guidance.

Response to Policy.

* 1. The installation is already established at the site. The new equipment is required to improve the service of the installation. The appearance of the column will not materially change and the additional cabinets carefully sited so as to minimise visual impact.
  2. As the application proposes the use of an existing site there should be no need to find a suitable alternative.
  3. This application does not discuss a new installation, only new equipment on an existing installation.
  4. The proposed installation minimises visual impact by substituting where possible equipment in a like for like manner.
  5. There is no increase in height or change in appearance of the column.

**ICNIRP**

The Government guidelines state that provided a proposed base station meets the ICNIRP guidelines for public exposure then it should not be necessary for the local planning authority to consider the health effects and concerns about them.

I can confirm that the proposed base station will comply with ICNIRP guidelines and I enclose the Certificate of Compliance.

However, I am aware over perceived health and safety issues concerning radio frequency emissions and for this reason I have enclosed a separate Health and Safety statement.

**Conclusion**

The telecommunications installation proposed as set out in this application has been designed and sited, having regard to technical, engineering and land use planning considerations, in order to minimise its impact on the local environment. Accordingly, the proposed development is considered to conform to national and local planning policies.

To summarise the case in favour of the proposals the following points are of relevance:

* With specific regard to telecommunications development, the applicant considers that the proposal accords fully with NPPF, the Code of Best Practice and the council’s own Telecommunications Policy.
* Site selection was progressed in accordance with the applicants licence obligations, advice in NPPF and the Code of Best Practice and represents the least environmentally intrusive, technically suitable, available option;
* EE Ltd’s site selection strategy is to keep the overall environmental impact to a minimum through the use of site shares wherever possible. Site sharing is progressed where it is technically and legally possible and the preferred environmental solution;
* The significance of the proposal in the development of the Everything Everywhere network is a material consideration and this site is required in order to contribute towards the obligation to provide coverage to 80% of the population.

1. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)