

19 November 2009

Our Ref: 23027

Councillor Keith Sedgwick
C/O Camden Borough Council
Camden Town Hall Extension
Argyle Street
London
WC1H 8EQ

Dear Councillor Sedgwick

**RE: PROPOSED UPGRADE TO VODAFONE BASE STATION INSTALLATION CS 23027 –
OUTSIDE 242 GRAFTON ROAD, GOSPEL OAK, LONDON, NW5 4HH**

Vodafone is in the process of upgrading their existing telecommunications site outside 242 Grafton Road, Gospel Oak, London, NW5 4HH to accommodate O2. The existing site currently provides coverage for Vodafone only; however, the plan is now to upgrade the equipment in order for it to operate as a combined Vodafone/O2 site.

The Vodafone Group has formed a strategic partnership with the Telefónica Group to share mobile assets here in the UK and across Europe. In the UK this means Vodafone will be working closely together with O2. In essence this agreement allows both organisations to:

- Consolidate the number of base stations required through sharing which is in accordance with Government Policy
- Significantly reduce the environmental impact of network development

Vodafone and O2 will continue to compete in the telecoms market to retain and win customers and both will continue to differentiate themselves on the quality of the customer experience. Although they're sharing infrastructure, they'll operate entirely independently as businesses with separate network strategies. Accordingly the key focus will be on the joint build of new sites and consolidation of existing 2G and 3G sites.

We aim to work with you to progress a proposal that is acceptable to your authority and meets both Vodafone and O2's technical network requirements. This approach accords with the Code of Best Practice on Mobile Phone Network Development (November 2002) and Vodafone and O2's commitment to ensure consultation with Local Planning Authorities and key stakeholders.

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

This letter therefore invites you as a local representative to enter into pre-application discussions with regard to our proposed site upgrade prior to a formal planning submission.

Our technical network requirement is as follows:

- CS 23027 – Outside 242 Grafton Road

- This upgrade is required to provide 3G coverage for O2 from an existing Vodafone site

Details of the proposed Vodafone upgrade are as follows:

- Outside 242 Grafton Road, Gospel Oak, London, NW5 4HH. NGR 528277, 185361
- The proposal would involve the redevelopment of the existing street furniture column from 14.4m high (total height) to 14.8 high (total height) in order to accommodate O2's antennas. The proposal would also comprise the addition of 1no. radio equipment cabinet. The existing structure is not capable of accommodating another operator without redevelopment. The mast would have to be redeveloped into a slightly taller structure in order to provide the structural capacity to accommodate O2's antennas. Planning Policy Guidance Note 8(PPG 8) attaches considerable importance to keeping the numbers of masts to a minimum in order to limit visual intrusion and strongly encourages the sharing of masts. This proposal utilises an existing mast in accordance with government guidance and would prevent the need for an additional ground based mast elsewhere in this locality. It is considered that the proposed upgrade is the most environmentally sensitive option that would provide the required coverage to the area whilst having a minimum impact on the environment.

In order to give you time to send your comments to us 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 look forward to receiving any comments you may have on the proposal. Can you please advise us of any local stakeholders or groups that might like to make comments.

Yours faithfully



Fiona Kadama
Planner
Mono Consultants Ltd

Tel: 0208 735 6107

(for and on behalf of Vodafone Ltd)

Enclosed:

1. Drawings Refs:(23027/F/001;002;003;004;005)