

Our ref: RH/GBG/LonCenO2/37039

Headteacher
Oliver's Montessori Nursery School
52 Belsize Square
London
NW3 4HN

23rd June 2006

Dear Sir or Madam,

Proposed O2 Telecommunications Base Station Portland Court/Buckland Court, Belsize Park, London NW3 4ED

I write to advise of an O2 mobile telecommunications proposal in the area near to Oliver's Montessori Nursery.

For your information, O2 are a licensed mobile telecommunications operator. The license, which has been granted by the UK Government, obliges O2 to provide network coverage to meet the demands of its 14 million plus UK customers. Mobile telecoms networks are formed by the installation of base stations (often generically referred to as 'masts') to provide radio-wave coverage to specific areas, or 'cells', in a similar way to the provision of terrestrial television and radio broadcasting. However, the need to facilitate clear two-way transmissions (between the 'mast' and the mobile phone/computer/system) and the comparatively low power at which such masts operate, means that the cell areas are much smaller than those required for TV broadcasting. As such, a greater number of base stations are required.

The planned installation will comprise 3 antennas mounted on steel support poles on the roof of Buckland Court, Belsize Park, as shown on the enclosed map. The antennas and supports will be shrouded in a glass fibre reinforced plastic enclosure painted to replicate the brickwork, just as the existing T-mobile installation at Portland Court (the adjacent building) has been.

The general location has been chosen for its proximity to the cell centre (the area in greatest need of network coverage) and as the only suitable location within the area, which is largely residential in character.

Our options within the area are very limited and the proposed installation will be designed and sited to minimise its visual impact as much as possible. The site has been designed to minimise the potential visual intrusion the installation might have on the area, and to disguise its function to limit any anxiety residents may have about mobile phone masts.

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Our ref: RH/GBG/LonCenO2/37039

Angela Carpos
Headteacher
Primrose Nursery
32 Glenilla Road
London
NW3 4AN

23rd June 2006

Dear Ms. Carpos,

Proposed O2 Telecommunications Base Station Portland Court/Buckland Court, Belsize Park, London NW3 4ED

I write to advise of an O2 mobile telecommunications proposal in the area near to Primrose Nursery.

For your information, O2 are a licensed mobile telecommunications operator. The license, which has been granted by the UK Government, obliges O2 to provide network coverage to meet the demands of its 14 million plus UK customers. Mobile telecoms networks are formed by the installation of base stations (often generically referred to as 'masts') to provide radio-wave coverage to specific areas, or 'cells', in a similar way to the provision of terrestrial television and radio broadcasting. However, the need to facilitate clear two-way transmissions (between the 'mast' and the mobile phone/computer/system) and the comparatively low power at which such masts operate, means that the cell areas are much smaller than those required for TV broadcasting. As such, a greater number of base stations are required.

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O2 are acutely sensitive to public concern about the siting of base stations, particularly on grounds of the perceived adverse impact upon human health. However, the UK Government, in granting a license to O2 to operate such a system, and O2 itself, are confident, on the basis of a wealth of scientific information, that the emissions from such installations do not pose an undue threat to health. I have enclosed leaflets which address concern about the impact of such installations. I would also add that the proposed installation will operate at power levels that are many times lower than the ICNIRP guidelines (see leaflets), which are themselves set at precautionary low levels.

We would value your comments on this proposal in advance of our formal planning submission to Camden Council. This will help us to address any queries or comments you may have. Please let us have your views no later than 14 days from receipt of this letter.

Please respond to O2's Network Consultations Department on 01753 564306 or by writing to: O2 Network Consultations, PPIE3, 1 Brunel Way, Slough, SL1 1XL. They will be happy to help you learn more about mobile telecommunications development.

Yours sincerely

Robin Henderson (MA Hons) MRTPI
Planning Manager (South)

robin.henderson@turnerandpartners.co.uk
Mobile: + 44 (0)7789 907038
Direct Dial: 01444 476551

Enc. Leaflets
Location Map

Our ref: RH/GBG/LonCenO2/37039

Headteacher
North Bridge House School
33 Fitzjohns Avenue
Hampstead
London
NW3 5JY

23rd June 2006

Dear Sir or Madam,

Proposed O2 Telecommunications Base Station Portland Court/Buckland Court, Belsize Park, London NW3 4ED

I write to advise of an O2 mobile telecommunications proposal in the area near to North Bridge House School.

For your information, O2 are a licensed mobile telecommunications operator. The license, which has been granted by the UK Government, obliges O2 to provide network coverage to meet the demands of its 14 million plus UK customers. Mobile telecoms networks are formed by the installation of base stations (often generically referred to as 'masts') to provide radio-wave coverage to specific areas, or 'cells', in a similar way to the provision of terrestrial television and radio broadcasting. However, the need to facilitate clear two-way transmissions (between the 'mast' and the mobile phone/computer/system) and the comparatively low power at which such masts operate, means that the cell areas are much smaller than those required for TV broadcasting. As such, a greater number of base stations are required.

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Our ref: RH/GBG/LonCenO2/37039

Headteacher
Belsize Square Synagogue Nitzanim Nursery
51 Belsize Square,
London
NW3 4HX

23rd June 2006

Dear Sir or Madam,

Proposed O2 Telecommunications Base Station Portland Court/Buckland Court, Belsize Park, London NW3 4ED

I write to advise of an O2 mobile telecommunications proposal in the area near to Belsize Square Synagogue Nitzanim Nursery.

For your information, O2 are a licensed mobile telecommunications operator. The license, which has been granted by the UK Government, obliges O2 to provide network coverage to meet the demands of its 14 million plus UK customers. Mobile telecoms networks are formed by the installation of base stations (often generically referred to as 'masts') to provide radio-wave coverage to specific areas, or 'cells', in a similar way to the provision of terrestrial television and radio broadcasting. However, the need to facilitate clear two-way transmissions (between the 'mast' and the mobile phone/computer/system) and the comparatively low power at which such masts operate, means that the cell areas are much smaller than those required for TV broadcasting. As such, a greater number of base stations are required.

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We would value your comments on this proposal in advance of our formal planning submission to Camden Council. This will help us to address any queries or comments you may have. Please let us have your views no later than 14 days from receipt of this letter.

Please respond to O2's Network Consultations Department on 01753 564306 or by writing to: O2 Network Consultations, PPIE3, 1 Brunel Way, Slough, SL1 1XL. They will be happy to help you learn more about mobile telecommunications development.

Yours faithfully

Robin Henderson (MA Hons) MRTPI
Planning Manager (South)

robin.henderson@turnerandpartners.co.uk
Mobile: + 44 (0)7789 907038
Direct Dial: 01444 476551

Enc. Leaflets
Location Map

Our ref: RH/GBG/LonCenO2/37039

Headteacher
The Hall School
Crossfiled Rd
Hampstead
London
NW3 4NU

3rd August 2006

Dear Sir or Madam,

Proposed O2 Telecommunications Base Station Portland Court/Buckland Court, Belsize Park, London NW3 4ED

I write to advise of an O2 mobile telecommunications proposal in the area near to North Bridge House School.

For your information, O2 are a licensed mobile telecommunications operator. The license, which has been granted by the UK Government, obliges O2 to provide network coverage to meet the demands of its 14 million plus UK customers. Mobile telecoms networks are formed by the installation of base stations (often generically referred to as 'masts') to provide radio-wave coverage to specific areas, or 'cells', in a similar way to the provision of terrestrial television and radio broadcasting. However, the need to facilitate clear two-way transmissions (between the 'mast' and the mobile phone/computer/system) and the comparatively low power at which such masts operate, means that the cell areas are much smaller than those required for TV broadcasting. As such, a greater number of base stations are required.

The planned installation will comprise 4 antennas mounted on steel support poles on the roof of Buckland Court, Belsize Park, as shown on the enclosed map. The antennas and supports will be shrouded in a glass fibre reinforced plastic enclosure painted to replicate the brickwork, just as the existing T-mobile installation at Portland Court (the adjacent building) has been.

The general location has been chosen for its proximity to the cell centre (the area in greatest need of network coverage) and as the only suitable location within the area, which is largely residential in character.

Our options within the area are very limited and the proposed installation will be designed and sited to minimise its visual impact as much as possible. The site has been designed to minimise the potential visual intrusion the installation might have on the area, and to disguise its function to limit any anxiety residents may have about mobile phone masts.

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We would value your comments on this proposal which is about to be submitted in a planning application to Camden Council. This will help us to address any queries or comments you may have. Please let us have your views as soon as possible.

Please respond to O2's Network Consultations Department on 01753 564306 or by writing to: O2 Network Consultations, PPIE3, 1 Brunel Way, Slough, SL1 1XL. They will be happy to help you learn more about mobile telecommunications development.

Yours faithfully

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Planning Manager (South)

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Enc. Leaflets
Location Map

Planning justification for O2's proposal at Buckland Court, 37 Belsize Park, London, NW3 4ED

Background

Following the licence issued by the Department of Trade and Industry in the mid 1990's, the company (O2) has been developing an advanced digital telecommunications network using radio based technology, generically known as 2G (Second Generation Mobile). This has been further developed into a commercial application general packet radio service (GPRS) network, which enables always-on mobile access to corporate email and other web-based services. This technological development is also referred to as a 2.5G network.

As a result of continued customer demand for services, additional 2G and 3G sites are required to deliver the appropriate level of coverage, call capacity and quality of services to meet the reasonable expectations of existing and new customers.

Camden Proposal

The network has been optimised where possible with a view to utilising all the existing structures although the particular characteristics of the 2G technology does require additional sites to be built. As many customers join the network, existing sites reach capacity and calls are dropped resulting in a substandard service. This capacity issue can be addressed by introducing additional sites to reduce the load on existing sites. In many instances, the newly rolled out 3G sites (which, being a higher frequency, cover reduced areas) can be utilised for 2G.

In this instance there is also a 3G deficiency in the area and O2 are seeking to utilise a single site to address the substandard coverage of both technologies.

The proposal is install 4 antennas within 2 GRP shrouds that have been designed to resemble chimneys and colour matched to the existing brickwork. O2 are using 2 combined 2G/3G antennas and 2 single technology antennas to enable them to address the differing propagation characteristics of the 2 technologies and achieve their coverage requirements whilst ensuring the development is still small enough to enable the scheme to be hidden as is proposed.

The 4 equipment cabinets will be located on steel grillage at the rear of the building where they will be invisible from ground level.

The site has been designed to provide increased 2G and 3G coverage to the surrounding area and to ensure that their customers continue to benefit from the high quality service they expect.

Pre-application Process

O2 are committed to the concept of an open and thorough planning process in line with the stated aims of the 10 commitments.

In this particular case a written pre application consultation was sent to Camden Council Planning Department on 23rd June 2006.

The LPA responded on 7th July 2006 advising that they had no objection in principle to additional equipment being placed on the right side of the property in order to re-

establish symmetry to its roofscape. This was on the basis that the GRP enclosures replicated those of the other Operator and were colour matched to the existing brickwork, that justification was provided to show that no other high buildings such as those further west in Swiss Cottage were suitable or available for O2's use and that the beam of greatest intensity did not fall onto the Hall Junior School playground opposites.

Insofar as these provisos are concerned:

1. The site has been designed to ensure it replicates the T-Mobile scheme and the cladding will be manufactured to match the existing brickwork.
2. There are no other suitable buildings within the area (please see technical justification below)
3. The original scheme had the 2G Sector 2 antenna at an orientation of 160 degrees which was directly pointing at the playground of Hall Junior School. This orientation has been amended (as demonstrated by P_037039_02C) to ensure that the beam of greatest intensity bypasses this location.

The proposal was rated Amber under the Traffic light Rating Model and accordingly consultation letters were also sent to the Ward Councillors, local MP, London Assembly Member and the Headteachers of Belsize Square Synagogue Nitzanim Nursery, North Bridge House School, Primrose Nursery and Oliver's Montessori Nursery School on 23rd June 2006.

Unfortunately, the Hall School was omitted from the pre-application and a letter advising them of the proposal has been recently sent. Any response will be forwarded to the LPA on receipt.

To date no responses have been received.

Technical Justification

The site is required to provide a high level of coverage and a high grade of service to the surrounding residential area and major road routes in response to customers' demands and the requirements of O2's Code Systems Operator's Licence.

Enclosed are copies of the coverage plots that show the cell and surrounding cells. These have been done separately for the 2G and 3G technologies with 3 coverage plots provided for each together with a written technical justification for the 2G scheme.

The coverage hole for 3G is to the northwest of the proposed site – given the limited coverage characteristics of 3G, it would not be possible to **entirely** fill the coverage hole from one 3G site even if it were located in the middle of the coverage hole (the area around the Freud Museum and Nutley Terrace). There are, in any case, no suitable sites in this location.

The 2G hole is similarly configured to the northwest and can be comfortably addressed from this location. It might be possible to achieve 2G coverage from the buildings to the west in Swiss Cottage (as suggested by the LPA) but an additional site would be required for 3G leading to the development of 2 telecoms sites in the area rather than one.

In accordance with the principles of PPG 8, the search area was designed to ensure a suitable site would address the deficiencies of both technologies and the search area was defined as the triangle of roads bounded by Belsize Lane, Daleham Gardens and Wedderburn Rd Lane. Within this area a number of suitable buildings were identified at:

Tavistock Centre, 120 Belsize Lane.

44 Belsize Lane.

The Belsize, 39 Belsize Lane.

St Peters Church, Belsize Lane.

The owners of all these buildings were approached but either ignored our letters or advised that they were not willing to locate an O2 installation on their buildings.

Government Guidance

This proposal is considered to be within national policy for the provision of telecommunications contained in Planning Policy Guidance Note 8 (PPG8). It is the Government's policy to facilitate the growth of new and existing telecommunications systems whilst keeping the environmental impact to a minimum, and to ensure that people have a choice of service provider, a wider range of services from which to choose and equitable access to the latest technologies as they become available. The siting and design of the installation will limit environmental impact whilst meeting operational requirements, and consequently will accord with Government objectives in PPG8 for the provision of telecommunications development.

Local Policy

The local plan policy relevant to telecommunications apparatus is PU8 in the Camden Local Plan. It provides that:

The Council will assess proposals for telecommunications development having regard to the following:

- a) **The effect on the general visual character and appearance of the area. Locations within conservation areas and other environmentally sensitive locations designated in the Proposals Map should be avoided;**
- b) **where affixed to a building, its impact on the character and appearance of that building and its surroundings. Fixing to a listed building will generally be unacceptable;**
- c) **the scope for shared use of masts, and where a free standing mast is required, the implications in terms of siting, design and neighbour amenity, such as overshadowing and visual intrusion;**
- d) **any associated landscaping proposals; and**
- e) **the extent to which operational requirements may constrain siting and design.**

Where such development is proposed, developers are encouraged to undertake early consultation with the Council so that the routing and phasing of development can also be taken into account.

The requirements outlined in the Local Plan have been adhered to in that:

- Given the coverage requirements of the area it was not possible to avoid the conservation area and a sensitive design was formulated to ensure that there would be no adverse impact on the visual character and appearance of the area.
- The design will enhance the roofline of the building by re-establishing the symmetry that was lost when T-Mobile installed their equipment in similarly disguised GRP shrouds. The new installation will ensure that the roofline has a more balanced appearance.
- The property is next door to the one which accommodates the T-Mobile installation which it is not possible to share without visually unsympathetic redevelopment.

Health and Safety

Whilst health considerations and public concern can in principle be material considerations in the determination of telecommunications development, it is the Government's view that the planning system is not the place to determine health safeguards. The Government's position is if a proposed mobile phone base station meets the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) guidelines for public exposure it should not be necessary for a local planning authority, in processing an application for planning permission or prior approval, to consider further the health aspects and concerns about them. The proposed equipment is designed to be ICNIRP compliant.

Furthermore, whilst the Government accepts the precautionary approach recommended in the Stewart Group's report "*mobile phones and health*" it is specific to the recommendations in the Group's report and the Government's response to them. The Government's position is further clarified in that...*The report does not provide any basis for precautionary actions beyond those already proposed. In the Government's view, local planning authorities should not implement their own precautionary policies e.g. by way of imposing a ban or moratorium on new telecommunications development or insisting on minimum distances between new telecommunications development and existing development.*

Conclusion

There is a demonstrable technical requirement for the proposed telecommunications installation. It satisfies both national and local policy objectives for such installations and strikes the right balance between operational and environmental considerations. The Local Planning Authority is therefore invited to determine the application favourably.

**Turner and Partners
August 2006**