

Proposed Microcell Installation
CTIL 149069/Telefonica 70835 – 54-56 Phoenix Road, London NW1 1ES

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION & HERITAGE STATEMENT

This further statement is submitted as an addition to the Design and Access Statement submitted as part of the Planning and Listed Building consent applications in relation to the above proposal.

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

Background and Requirement

This particular scheme results from a requirement for Telefonica UK Ltd (O2) to provide improved network coverage and capacity in the area.

The advent of 'smart phones' and other similar devices has seen a substantial increase in traffic, and in locations where local coverage is poor or stretched, the existing base station network may not provide sufficient penetration and capacity.

In addition, in areas where the use of phones is particularly high, such as major towns or cities, many sites will reach the maximum number of calls they can process. When a customer attempts to make a call in an area where the network has reached its full capacity, the 'network busy' message is displayed on their mobile phone. In order to continue to meet customer demand and improve the quality of services in these areas, there is a need to increase the capacity of the network to allow more calls to be made.

Application Building (Heritage Asset)

54-56 Phoenix Road is part of a large group of Grade II listed buildings, known in its listing as Chamberlain House. Some changes and additions have taken place in more recent times to the Phoenix Road elevation, including a number of modernised shop fronts and fascias, signage, lighting and ventilation. There is a further listed building across Phoenix Road from the site.

The scheme undertaken by Telefonica is intended to respect all elements of the building and have a very limited impact, such that it will have no discernible effect.

Impact on the Building (Heritage Asset)

We are conscious of the need to respect the historic environment of the building, given that it is Grade II listed, while at the same time, ensuring that the required coverage is provided.

The scheme seeks to install just 1 no. small microcell antennas, located just above the ground floor entrance, facing on to Phoenix Road. The scheme is designed to provide the required improved coverage and capacity from this modest deployment.

The antenna is a small and discreet element that is not dissimilar to an alarm box, of which is a usual addition to a building, including those listed. The antenna will be finished to match the fascia of the building.

The detailed listing of the building reads as follows:

“Includes: Nos.86-100 Chamberlain House CHALTON STREET. Includes: Chamberlain House OSSULSTON STREET. Block of council flats, partly with shops at ground floor level, forming part of the Ossulston Estate; frontages to Phoenix Road, Ossulston Street and Chalton Street. 1927-9. To the designs of the LCC Architect's department under G Topham Forrest. Loadbearing brickwork rendered with roughcast, channelled to ground floor to appear as stone; reinforced concrete balconies. Pantiled hipped roofs with tall chimney-stacks. PLAN: courtyard plan with entrance from Phoenix Road. EXTERIOR: Phoenix Road frontage of central entrance flanked by similar 2 storey and attic pavilion blocks having 3 tripartite sashes each and hipped roofs with dormers and overhanging eaves. To either side the row continues with 4 storey blocks having ground floor shops and tripartite sashes to upper floors; other street facades in similar style. Opposite entrance in courtyard the southern block has balconies designed to make the voids above them read as holes punched in the building; central rectangles with a projecting corbelled balcony with shields to the top floor flanked by long rectangular voids grouped in 3s to each floor. Round-arched arcaded ground floor with central opening approached by curved steps. A similar design continues to the western bays. INTERIORS: not inspected. This complex forms a group with Levita House, Ossulston Street, (qv) and the southern block of Walker House, Phoenix Road including The Cock Tavern (qv). HISTORICAL NOTE: despite policy to house as many Londoners as possible on outlying cottage estates pressure of waiting lists and urgency of slum clearance forced Cecil Levita, Chairman of the LCC Housing Committee to review the situation. The Ossulston Estate is the most important inner-city estate of the inter-war period, representing the most considered attempt by the LCC to inject new thinking into inner-city housing estates. It was influenced in particular by Viennese housing models and was innovative in terms of layout and elevation. The foundation stone of Chamberlain House was laid by Neville Chamberlain, then Minister of Health.”

We do not believe that this scheme will harm the architectural or historic element of the building as:

- There will be no impact on any of the architectural features of the building
- Ancillary radio equipment needed for the installation is proposed within the building, therefore the only external impact would be the antenna and minimal amount of external cabling.

Resultant Design of Scheme

We believe that care has been taken to ensure that the subject proposal has the most minimal impact on 54-56 Phoenix Road. In particular:

- The antenna has been positioned as discreetly as possible, respecting the listed status of the building
- A very small microcell antenna is being used to ensure minimal visual impact, and placed to ensure no impact on the important features of the building
- The antenna will be finished to ensure that it blends with its background and surrounding elements