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**From:** Rosemary Lewin [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 24 September 2015 01:49  
**To:** Planning  
**Subject:** Telephone Exchange, Kelly Street, NW1 8PH; Application no. 2015/4776/P

**Kelly Street Residents Association**

25 Kelly Street, London NW1 8PG

23 September 2015

Shane O'Donnell

Planning Solutions Team

Regeneration and Planning

Culture & Environment

London Borough of Camden

5 Pancras Square

London N1C 4AG

Dear Shane O'Donnell,

**Telephone Exchange, Kelly Street, NW1 8PH; Application no. 2015/4776/P;**

**Type: GPDO Prior Approval Determination**

I am writing on behalf of Kelly Street Residents Association (KSRA) to object to the Prior Approval application to erect a radio antenna on the Kentish Town Telephone Exchange. Our main concern is that the proposed antenna will sit significantly above the existing antennae on the building.

The application refers rather misleadingly to a height of 20m above ground. However, the application drawing 166658-01-150-MD007 clearly illustrates that 20m refers to the top of the building whilst the top of the antenna will be at circa 29m above ground and circa 5m above existing antennae.

We do not object to the principle of erecting a long wave radio antenna as part of a smart water meter radio

network for Thames Water. However, we would suggest that it should be arranged to sit at the same level as the existing antennae on the building to ensure that a new height precedent is not set.

We have two further concerns:

1) We are worried about the visual impact which a higher radio antenna could have on Kelly Street, and on views of Kelly Street from the surrounding area, for

instance from Parliament Hill Fields. The applicant's Planning Statement acknowledges that Kelly Street is a Conservation Area (the BT Exchange is situated at its boundary). However para 4.16 of the Planning Statement states incorrectly that only one building in the street is Listed (no. 51). Para 4.17 refers to the Kelly Street Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Strategy (adopted in March 2011), and one look at para 6.3 of that document would have informed the applicant that nos. 1-49 (odd), 51 and 8-34 (even) are Grade II Listed. This is careless research, and we can only hope that other statements in the supporting documents are not so factually incorrect.

We do not think the fact that Kelly Street is a Grade II Listed street has been fully taken into account in this application. We are worried about the possible visual impact which the height of the proposed antenna could have on the character of this historic street, both on the street as a whole and on individual houses. We are also worried about the visual impact on views from the surrounding areas of Kentish Town, Parliament Hill Fields and Hampstead Heath.

2) We are extremely concerned about the level and weight of traffic which the installation and maintenance of the antenna and related equipment may require. The entrance to the BT Exchange has recently cracked and been repaired due to the heavy weight of BT's HGVs. If the installation and maintenance of a taller antenna and related equipment requires larger vehicles, we are very concerned about the risk of greater damage being caused to the entrance to the Exchange and the two houses adjoining the entrance (nos. 24 & 26), one of which (no. 24) is already being monitored for damp problems associated with damage caused by BT vehicles.

We ask that our objections to this application be given serious consideration, particularly in relation to:

1) ensuring that the new antenna sits at the same level as the existing antennae;

2) ensuring that a precedent is not set for a new height level;

3) limiting the size and weight of vehicles used for both installation and maintenance of the new antenna.

Should the Council be minded to grant approval for a reduced height antenna we ask that conditions be imposed, most especially limiting the size and weight of vehicles used. Previous applications for this Exchange also had conditions attached limiting the hours during which building work might be undertaken, in order to minimise disturbance to residents in the adjacent houses.

Yours sincerely

Rosemary Lewin

Chair, KSRA