

Enirayetan, Oluwaseyi

From: Cardno, Steve
Sent: 12 March 2018 14:01
To: Enirayetan, Oluwaseyi
Subject: Re 2018/0348/P - Pavement on Finchley Road adjacent to the rear of 17-24 Dobson Close - Telephone kiosk application - Revised Observations

Hi Seyi

I have completed my assessment of the above application. This includes consideration of Transport for London's scheme to install Cycle Super Highway Route 11 and reconfigure the Swiss Cottage Gyratory in the vicinity of the proposed site.

The site is located in one of our town centres near Swiss Cottage Underground Station on one of the busiest pedestrian corridors in the borough. Pedestrian volumes are extremely high and are forecast to increase significantly when Crossrail services become operational later this year along with ongoing economic growth in the borough. Existing footway space is a scarce resource and must be safeguarded for pedestrians both now and in the future to accommodate economic growth.

The telephone kiosk would be located adjacent to the kerb on a section of footway with very little in the way of street furniture, with the exception of slender lamp columns and sign posts. The telephone kiosk would be significantly wider than other items of street furniture in the general vicinity of the site. The proposal to install a telephone kiosk would therefore have a harmful and negative impact on the streetscape.

The telephone kiosk would obstruct and impede pedestrian movement (especially for blind and partially sighted pedestrians) and visibility on and along the footway. This would have a significant impact on pedestrian comfort levels, both now and in the future. It would obstruct inter-visibility between vehicular traffic and pedestrians wishing to cross the road at this location. It would also obstruct visibility to the existing traffic signs on the footway. The proposal therefore constitutes a hazard to public safety.

I am also aware that the Metropolitan Police have raised concerns about this type of application. The telephone kiosk would facilitate crime and anti-social behaviour and would constitute a hazard to public safety. It would also obstruct CCTV visibility.

The telephone kiosk would be located within 70 metres of at least 4 existing telephone kiosks. In addition, the telephone kiosk would also be located in close proximity to a BT InLink units outside 100 Avenue Road and 96 Finchley Road (Odeon Cinema) with similar functionality to that being proposed (planning references 2017/1125/P and 2017/1129/P). This includes wheelchair accessible, free calls, free wifi and mobile phone charging points. The proposal to install another telephone kiosk of similar dimensions and similar functionality would merely represent unnecessary street clutter in a relatively clear and unobstructed pedestrian environment.

The proposed scheme to install Cycle Super Highway Route 11 and reconfigure the Swiss Cottage Gyratory are within the vicinity of the site. The schemes aim to create a high quality place and improve pedestrian comfort and increase the safety of vulnerable road users through providing additional space for walking and cycling. The installation of a new telephone box in this location would add further street clutter to the streetscene, contrary to the aims of the committed schemes, and the resulting reduction in the footway width may discourage active travel. The siting of the proposal is therefore considered to be unacceptable.

The proposal must be refused for the above reasons. Please let me know if you wish to discuss.

Regards

Steve

Steve Cardno

Principal Transport Planner

Regeneration and Planning

Supporting Communities

London Borough of Camden