

Application No:	Consultees Name:	Received:	Comment:	Response:
2020/3839/P	John Hare	01/11/2020 19:03:09	COMMNT	<p>I am a resident of Bedford Court Mansions, Bedford Avenue writing to comment on the proposals to install a large array of microwave antennae on the roof of the St Giles Hotel, which is also in Bedford Avenue.</p> <p>The St Giles Hotel is one of London's best brutalist buildings and is located on an historically significant and prominent site that will be visited by an enormously increased population using the enlarged station at Tottenham Court Road. It is also visible from the Grade 1 listed Bedford Square and the relationship between this intact space and its modern neighbours must be managed very carefully to ensure that the special nature of the square is not destroyed by careless intrusion. The Council has thus far succeeded in treading a satisfactory line in this matter in the recent path both in its handling of the previous hotel extensions and in the determination of other local applications - such as the recent One Bedford Avenue development.</p> <p>This work would be lost by allowing the highest part of the St Giles Hotel to be treated as a site for conveniently locating a large battery of functionally placed equipment with no regard for the skyline impact this will have. No attempt seems to have been made to mitigate this impact either by shielding the equipment or setting it far enough back to minimise its visibility. But of course this is the Achilles heel of this particular technical solution to meeting the demand for improved internet access. It can only achieve an optimum reach if and when it becomes highly visible.</p> <p>Given the work that has been undertaken in the past years to generate a below ground fibre-optic networks in Central London, I do not believe that this level of harmful visual intrusion can be justified, given that the performance of a service using this particular technology must be necessarily be poorer than the alternatives now on offer. These below ground systems have been installed in purpose made conduits that can be easily scaled to meet demand growth. The proposed use of a microwave system can only be improved by adding further equipment to yet more visible roof top locations.</p> <p>I would urge the Council to reject this application.</p>

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