

Wandsworth Society

Please reply to:
49 Wandsworth Common West Side
London SW18 2EE

Planning Applications
Wandsworth Borough Council
Town Hall
Wandsworth High Street
London SW18

30th December 2021

For the attention of M/s Laura Nieves

Dear Sirs,

Re: Application No 2021/5474 Telecom cabinet and monopole situate on pavement south of Trinity Road subway. Street furniture, Trinity Road SW18.

Determination of prior approval for 15m monopole and 3no equipment cabinets.

Objection.

We have considered the information provided in connection with this application and wish to strongly object to the application on the following grounds.

Planning statement: The application states that no check has been made of the Council's suitable site register, although the applicants do confirm that the industry's providers/operators register may be more up to date.

Summary of main issues/outcome raised with the Council:

1. The statement "high speed connectivity is the lifeblood of a community". This and the rest of this statement is a generic phrase/statement applicable to any application. Little or no regard has been given to the particular circumstances of this site; and is fundamentally flawed as it does not recognize that the site is within Article 2 (3) land in the Wandsworth Common Conservation Area.
2. The preconsultation identified the need to carefully consider the risk of/to the increased visual "amenity" to adjoining residential properties.

The application states that no site inspection has been carried out, it would thus be impossible to properly assess the implications of the proposals.

Ten Commitments Consultation.

Summary of main issues raised/outcome

1. The design presents a better "fit" within the local community and the immediate streetscape.

We cannot agree with this statement as it appears that no thought has been given to the Wandsworth Common Conservation Area. The proposal does not preserve or enhance the Conservation Area, which is a necessary requirement for any new development in a Conservation Area.

Proposed Location.

We cannot agree with the description beneath the poor photograph provided, as the ground level cabinets will totally obscure the view across the Common from Trinity Road. The height of the mast imposes an additional significant obstruction to the openness of views of the Common.

Planning Policy Relevant to the development.

Policy Analysis. Para 3 "in keeping with...."high quality communication(section 10) the proposed design has been selected to minimize visual impact upon the street scape by integrating with the existing built environment".

We cannot agree with this statement in the Wandsworth Common Conservation Area. The ground based cabinets are standard issue and could not be considered as preserving or enhancing the Conservation Area.

Figure 4. The map provided is indecipherable and completely useless to those not in the industry. No explanation of the colours or symbols used is provided.

Reasons for choice of design. We do not believe that any design criteria has been applied. The benefits are standard wording for an application anywhere.

5. Technical Justification. Para2 If the cell search areas/criteria are constrained with a typical cell radius of 50m, then a suitable alternative site should be found.

Discounted Options. Site D6 should not be discounted as there would appear to be ample space close to an existing mast (thus forming a "cluster") on the grassed area between the road way and the pedestrian footpath. In addition there does not appear to have been any consideration given to a site on the paved area on the east side of Trinity Road at the junction with Windmill Road.

National Planning Policy. The reference to Ref 20/AP/1187 London Borough of Southwark Appeal Ref APP/A5840/W/20/3254830 is irrelevant as this site is not within a Conservation Area and is within a densely built area, with many high structures closeby.

Conclusions

We would remind you of the two applications for telecom masts which have been refused by your Council within the past twelve months on Burntwood Lane and St Anne's Crescent in Wandsworth. Both applications were in Conservation Areas.

In view of our comments and the many other objections which your Council has received, we urge you to recommend refusal to the Applications Committee.

If, however, it is felt absolutely necessary to approve the application we would suggest that conditions are required to include:

1. Turning the cabinets through 90 degrees to provide a less intrusive "wall of cabinets" to the Common, providing site lines through.
2. That the height of the mast is reduced and moved south closer to an existing mature tree.
3. That additional low level planting is provided between the cabinets and the existing newly planted trees to provide additional green ground cover.

Yours faithfully,

Philip Whyte
Leader Planning Group
Wandsworth Society