



Friends of Tooting Common

9 January 2017

Planning Inspectorate

Town and Country Planning Act 1990: Appeal under S 78:
Comment by Friends of Tooting Common, opposing the appeal

I am writing on behalf of Friends of Tooting Common, further to the notification from Wandsworth Council of this appeal:

Site address: Tooting Bec Railway Embankment off Cavendish Road Streatham SW16

Description of development: Erection of a 16.6m high monopole with 6No antennas; 1No 0.6m transmission dish and 2No 0.3m transmission dishes; 3No equipment cabinets; 1No meter cabinet; access steps and ancillary development within a compound surrounded by a 2.1m high palisade fence on Tooting Bec Railway Embankment

Appeal reference: APP/H5960/W/16/3163832

Appellant's name: Cornerstone Telecommunications Infrastructure Ltd and Vodafone Ltd

Appeal reference: 2016/2502

Friends of Tooting Common continue to be opposed to the construction of this mast which, at an overall height of 18.2m, would involve unacceptable visual intrusion on the Common.

Tooting Common is an important area of open space with a distinctive character, open to everyone, and given our role in promoting the public use and enjoyment of the Common, Friends of Tooting Common have very considerable concerns about this development which would involve considerable visual intrusion. We agree with Wandsworth Council's Planning Committee that the mast would result in unacceptable harm to the character and appearance of the Common. We also have concerns, among other things, about the possible impact of this installation on the habitat of bats.

We therefore consider that this appeal should be rejected, and Wandsworth Council's previous decision to refuse the application upheld.

We do recognise that, as a general point, there is a need for good mobile phone reception. However we think it is appropriate to look to mobile phone providers to provide good reception, while as far as possible avoiding visual intrusion on an area like Tooting Common; and to look to local authority planning departments to engage with providers in order to achieve this. (We would also actually note that on Vodafone's own reception coverage map there does not appear to be a significant deficiency in mobile reception in the area.)

Yours sincerely

Peter Ramell,
Chair, Friends of Tooting Common

Copied to:

Cllr McDermott, Chair, Wandsworth Council Planning

Cllr Ellis

Councillor Usher

Councillor Salier

Councillor Allin-Kahn

Councillor Anderson

Councillor Dunn

Mr S Ingyon (Enable)

Ms V Selby (Enable)

Mr N Granger (Wandsworth Planning)

Mr R Glassborow (Tooting Common MAC)