



Friends of Tooting Common

19 April 2017

Mr Bryn Bolton, Planning case officer, Environmental and Community Services Directorate
Town Hall, Wandsworth High Street, London SW 18 2PU

Town and Country Planning Act 1990: Planning Application Number 2017/ 1582
Location: pavement west of railway bridge, Bedford Hill SW16 1LB

Dear Mr Bolton

I am writing as Chair of Friends of Tooting Common. We have just been made aware of this planning application for a telecomms installation west of the railway bridge on Bedford Hill.

It would appear from the application documents that the proposed installation - of 17.5m height - would protrude considerably above the tree level on the edge of Bedford Woods. It would therefore be a considerable visual intrusion on the sightlines 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 visual intrusion. We also have concerns that the proposed installation would be very close to the existing telecomms installation on the other (east) side of the railway bridge, which is also intrusive and a considerable eyesore.

We therefore object to the application and consider that it should be refused.

We 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 find ways to provide good reception, while avoiding visual intrusion on areas like Tooting Common; and appropriate to look to local authority planning departments to engage with providers to consider how best to achieve this.

Our understanding has been that Wandsworth Council Planning Department will inform Friends of Tooting Common of any planning application that relates to Tooting Common. It appears however that this has not happened on this occasion, and as noted we have only just been made aware of the application, shortly before the deadline for responses. I am writing separately to the Planning Department on this point.

Yours sincerely

Peter Ramell,
Chair, Friends of Tooting Common

Copied to:

Mr S Ingyon (Enable)

Mr J Birtles (Enable)

Ms V Selby (Enable)

Mr N Granger (Wandsworth Planning)

Mr R Glassborow (Tooting Common MAC)

FOTC members