

ITEM NO. 9

COMMITTEE DATE: 25/06/2012

APPLICATION NO: 12/0699/28

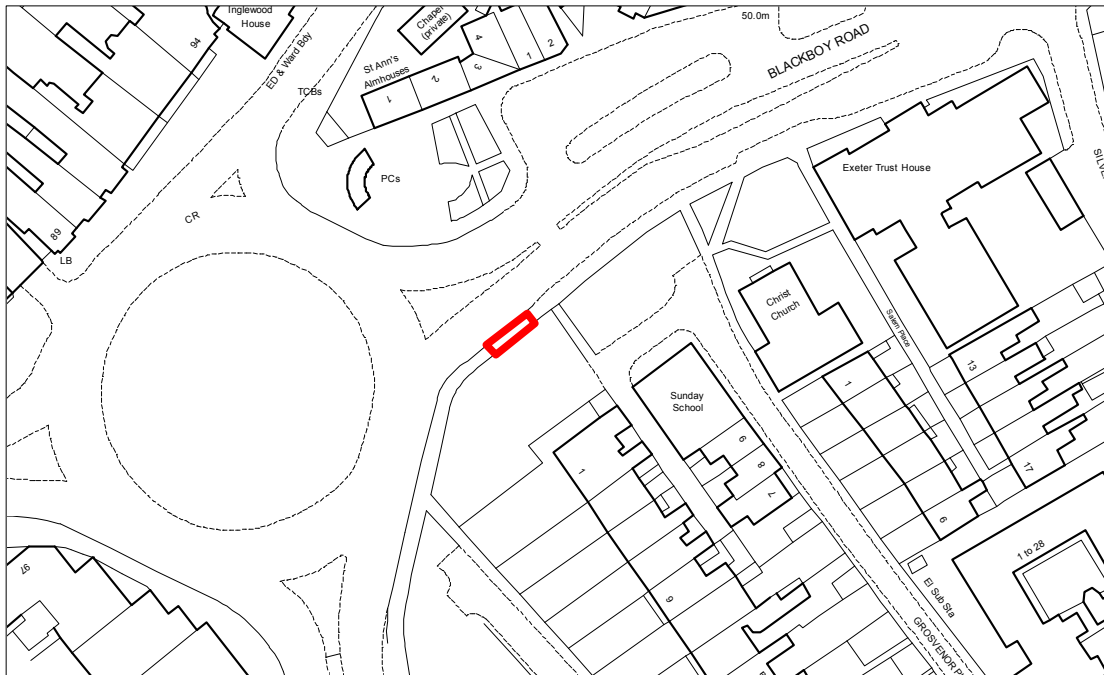
TELECOMMUNICATIONS APPARATUS APPLICATION

APPLICANT: Telefonica Ltd
PROPOSAL: Installation of 12m telecommunication column with three antennas, radio equipment housing and ancillary works

LOCATION: Grid Reference 292808, 093231 at junction of Blackboy Road and, Western Way, Exeter, EX1

REGISTRATION DATE: 11/05/2012

EXPIRY DATE: 06/07/2012



Scale 1:1250

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DESCRIPTION OF SITE/PROPOSAL

The site subject to this application relates to a small area 17.0 metres North West of 1 Belmont Road at the junction of Blackboy Road & Western Way, adjacent to the roundabout. No.1 Belmont Road, along with the wider terrace, are listed buildings and in addition the site falls within the Belmont Conservation Area (designated in 1986). Planning Permission is sought for the installation of a 12.0 metre telecommunication column with three antennas, associated radio equipment and ancillary works.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY THE APPLICANT

The application is accompanied by a Conservation Plan, Design & Access Statement, Supporting Technical Information, General Background Information for Telecommunication Development, Health and Mobile Phone Base Stations Document, Supplementary Information and an ICNIRP Declaration.

REPRESENTATIONS

At the time of writing one representation has been received. The objector identifies three issues; i) the clarity of the application (confusion over the height of the column and whether

any trees will be impacted upon), ii) the choice of site, and iii) the impact of the proposal on the character of the vicinity.

CONSULTATIONS

At the time of writing no consultation responses have been received.

PLANNING POLICIES/POLICY GUIDANCE

Central Government Guidance - National Planning Policy Framework
Exeter Local Development Framework Core Strategy
CP17 - Design and Local Distinctiveness
Devon County Structure Plan 2001-2016
CO6 - Quality of New Development
CO7 - Historic Settlements and Buildings
Exeter Local Plan First Review 1995-2011
DG1 - Objectives of Urban Design
EN7 - Telecommunications
C1 - Conservation Areas

OBSERVATIONS

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) identifies that advanced, high quality communications infrastructure is essential for sustainable economic growth. Furthermore the NPPF notes that the development of high speed broadband technology and other communications networks will play a vital role in enhancing the provision of local community facilities and services (Para.42). This view is echoed within the Exeter Local Plan where it is acknowledged that telecommunications play an important part in supporting a sustainable development strategy.

As a consequence of the aforementioned there is a pressure on Local Planning Authorities (LPA) to support the expansion of electronic communications networks, including telecommunications and high speed broadband, subject to being in receipt of appropriate and acceptable justifications, designs and technical compliance. Indeed Para.46 of the NPPF states that, *LPA's must determine applications on planning grounds only. They should not seek to prevent competition between different operators, question the need for the telecommunications system, or determine health safeguards if the proposal meets International Commission guidelines for public exposure.*

With regard to the first point the applicant has provided evidence suggesting a total of eight alternative sites were considered. Further information and/or clarification on this matter has been requested. However, Members are advised that officers accept the options presented by the applicant and further accept that no alternative sites can be utilised. Any information received from the applicant will be reported to Members.

It is considered that the proposal is aesthetically acceptable. Its siting immediately adjacent to a stretch of established trees of a similar height helps reduce the visual impact of the proposal. In addition the proximity of the existing street furniture evident throughout the vicinity will further reduce the impact of any additional apparatus. Whilst the proposal is taller than the adjacent streetlights, by virtue of the aforementioned tree line and coupled with the tall buildings on either side of the road, the proposal does not appear over dominant or incongruous in context. The applicant has been approached about the potential to camouflage the proposed column, such as integrating into a street light. Any feedback will be reported to Members.

No trees would be affected by the development.

Finally, health considerations can only be taken into account when the applicant has failed to demonstrate that the electromagnetic waves emitted from the equipment would comply with the international standards set down by the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP). As the applicant has submitted a certificate confirming compliance with the ICNIRP guidelines, it is not considered that there are any material reasons for objecting to the proposal on health grounds.

For the purpose of clarity it is important to note that Section 5 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (Supporting High Quality Communications Infrastructure) has replaced PPG8 'Telecommunications'.

SOUTHERN AREA WORKING PARTY

Members were advised the application will be presented at committee on the 25 June 2012 (6/62012).

RECOMMENDATION

APPROVE subject to the following conditions:

- 1) C05 - Time Limit - Commencement
- 2) C15 - Compliance with Drawings

Local Government (Access to Information) 1985 (as amended).
Background papers used in compiling the report:

Files of planning applications available for inspection from the Customer Service Centre, Civic Centre, Paris Street, Exeter: Telephone 01392 265223