

**7 DCCW2005/2861/T - INSTALLATION OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT COMPRISING 15M STREETWORKS MONOPOLE, CONTAINING 3G ANTENNA AND ASSOCIATED MINI-EQUIPMENT CABINET AT STREETWORKS AT VERGE OPPOSITE GRANDSTAND PUB, GRANDSTAND ROAD, WIDEMARSH, HEREFORD, HR4 9NH**

**For: O2 UK Ltd per Stappard Howes, Unit 4a, Sovereign Court 2, University of Warwick Science Park, Sir William Lyons Road, Coventry, HR2 7HB**

**Date Received: 31st August, 2005    Ward: Three Elms    Grid Ref: 49862, 41257**

**Expiry Date: 25th October, 2005**

Local Members: Councillors Mrs. P.A. Andrews, Mrs. S.P.A. Daniels and Ms. A.M. Toon

**1. Site Description and Proposal**

- 1.1 This notification is submitted on behalf of O<sub>2</sub> UK Ltd. and is supported by a technical justification in the form of network coverage plots indicating a gap in coverage in respect of the 3G network.
- 1.2 The proposal is for a 15 metre monopole mast and associated equipment cabin, which will be sited on verge to the eastern side of Grandstand Road.
- 1.3 The supporting information includes the standard ICNIRP compliance statement and an appraisal of why the application site has been selected.

**2. Policies**

2.1 National:

PPG8                    -            Telecommunications

2.2 Hereford Local Plan:

Policy ENV13       -            Telecommunications  
Policy ENV14       -            Design  
Policy H21           -            Compatibility of Non-Residential Uses

2.3 Herefordshire Unitary Development Plan (Revised Deposit Draft):

Policy DR1           -            Design  
Policy CF3           -            Telecommunications

### 3. Planning History

- 3.1 DCCW2005/0549/T 15m high flexicell lamppost pole with shroud, 3 antennas, 2 ground based equipment cabinets and ancillary development thereto. Withdrawn 16th March, 2005.

This application was withdrawn following advice that new telecommunications equipment should whenever possible reduce visual clutter within the built environment by either mast sharing or replacing existing street furniture with a combined unit. The present application has taken this advice into account, and the proposed site was agreed at a pre-application site meeting.

- 3.2 DCCW2005/1086/TT Telecommunications installation. Prior Approval Not Required 5th May, 2005.

Subsequently technical difficulties have prevented the implementation of this development.

### 4. Consultation Summary

#### Internal Council Advice

- 4.1 Traffic Manager - no objection.
- 4.2 Head of Environmental Health and Trading Standards - no objection.

### 5. Representations

- 5.1 Hereford City Council - no objection, but referred to a judgement of the Consistory Court of the Diocese of Lichfield relating to determination by the Diocesan Advisory Committee, which has no relevance to the application before the Local Planning Authority, other than it involved the installation of telecommunications equipment.
- 5.2 Three letters of objection have been received, from Mr. Evans 137 Grandstand Road, Mrs. Davies 127 Grandstand Road and Mrs. Jones 3 Birch Meadow Clehonger, summarised as follows:-

- Mast would be visually detrimental to the amenity of the area.
- Possible health hazard.
- Mast would be a traffic hazard.
- Should be sited elsewhere.

The full text of these letters can be inspected at Central Planning Services, Blueschool House, Blueschool Street, Hereford and prior to the Sub-Committee meeting.

### 6. Officers Appraisal

- 6.1 The principal considerations in determining this application are the impact on the character and appearance of the locality. Reference to health and safety issues will be made later in the appraisal.

Siting

- 6.2 The proposed equipment will enable the provision of 3G services in an area to the west of Hereford, presently not covered by the existing network coverage, and the technical need demonstrated in the supporting information is accepted.
- 6.3 Prior to submitting the application, the applicant considered eight other potential locations in the locality, but on investigation these proved to be unsuitable for a variety of reasons, including property owners not willing to negotiate, proximity to housing and technical unsuitability. Furthermore there is an extant determination, approving the erection of a 15 metre monopole in this vicinity. Whilst it is advised that the approved installation will not be implemented due to technical reasons, the extant approval which lies in very close proximity to the current proposal is of significant relevance as a material consideration in the determination of this application.
- 6.4 The mast is a monopole design with associated equipment housing, which visually is not considered to cause demonstrable harm to the amenity of the locality which is characterised by existing street lighting and predominantly commercial uses.
- 6.5 Furthermore, the siting would not overshadow or dominate any private residential property, the closest of which lies approximately 85 metres to the west. In addition it is not considered that the siting would dominate the grounds of Brookfield School, which lies approximately 100 metres to the west.

Health and Safety

- 6.6 Although concern about the possible safety implications of the equipment has been raised in the consultations received, a statement of ICNIRP compliance supports the application, and Members are advised that the guidance given in PPG8 (Telecommunications) states that:-

Health considerations and public concern can in principle be material considerations in determining applications for planning permission and prior approval. Whether such matters are material in a particular case is ultimately a matter for the courts. It is for the decision-maker (usually the Local Planning Authority) to determine what weight to attach to such considerations in any particular case.

- 6.7 However, it is the Government's firm view that the planning system is not the place for determining health safeguards. It remains Central Government's responsibility to decide what measures are necessary to protect public health. In the Government's view, if a proposed mobile phone base station meets the ICNIRP guidelines for public exposure it should not be necessary for a Local Planning Authority, in processing an application for planning permission or prior approval, to consider further the health and safety concerns about them." Therefore, it is considered that the issue of safety has been properly addressed in the application, in accordance with Government Guidance.
- 6.8 Overall the proposal complies with the relevant policies in the Hereford Local Plan and no objections have been received from the Head of Environmental Health and Trading Standards or the Traffic Manager.
- 6.9 On balance, it is considered that the proposal constitutes permitted development that can be determined under the Prior Notification procedure and approval of the siting and appearance is recommended.

**RECOMMENDATION**

**That Prior Approval is Not Required.**

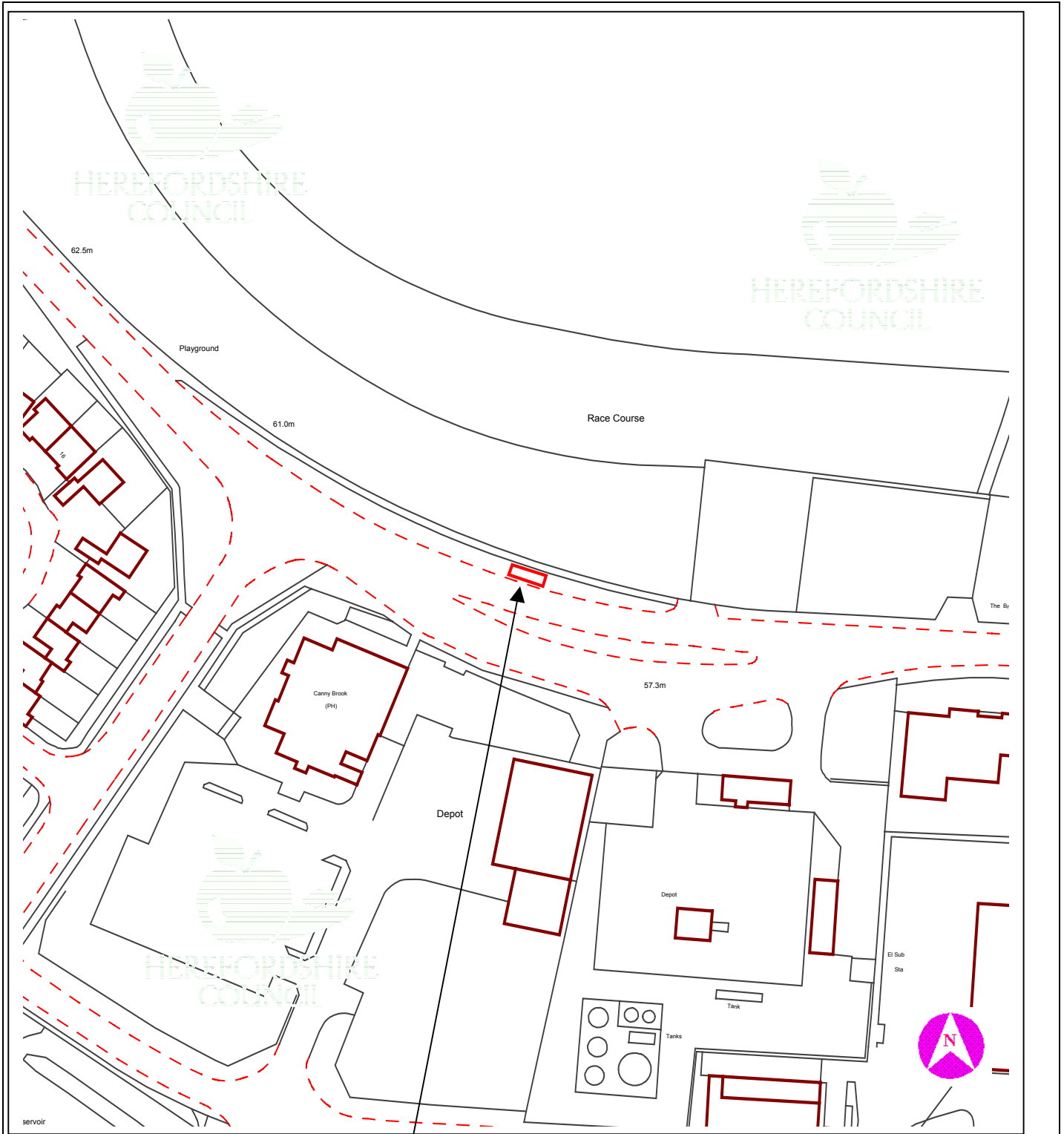
Decision: .....

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**Background Papers**

Internal departmental consultation replies.



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**APPLICATION NO:** DCCW2005/2861/T

**SCALE :** 1 : 1250

**SITE ADDRESS :** Streetworks at verge opposite Grandstand Pub, Grandstand Road, Widemarsh, Hereford, HR4 9NH.

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