### Report of the Head of Planning & Enforcement Services

Address LAND O/S SORTING OFFICE, JUNCTION OF EAST WAY AND PARK WAY

RUISLIP

**Development:** Replacement of existing 12.5 metre high monopole mobile phone mast with a

15 metre high monopole mobile phone mast, replacement equipment cabinet and ancillary works (Consultation under Schedule 2, Part 24 of the Town and

Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995) (as

amended.)

**LBH Ref Nos**: 59076/APP/2010/2931

Drawing Nos: 100

200 Rev. A 300 Rev. A 301 Rev. A 400 Rev. A 500 Rev. A

Site Specific Supplementary Information Cornerstone: Supporting Technical Information

Health and Mobile Phone Base Stations

Date Plans Received: 14/12/2010 Date(s) of Amendment(s):

Date Application Valid: 14/12/2010

**Reason for Urgency** 

A decision is required on the application before the 8th February 2011 which is before the next available North Committee of the 22nd February 2011.

#### 1. SUMMARY

It is proposed to replace the existing 12.5m high monopole mobile phone mast with a 15m high (including antennas) monopole mobile phone mast incorporating six antennas. An existing equipment cabinet would also be replaced with a larger equipment cabinet.

The proposed telecommunications mast by virtue of its size and location would detract from the street scene as it would be a readily apparent and incongruous element. The mast would not harmonise with the existing street scene and as such is contrary to Policies BE13, BE37 and OE1 of the Hillingdon Unitary Development Plan Saved Polices (September 2007).

### 2. RECOMMENDATION

RECOMMENDATION (A) That prior approval of siting and design is required.

RECOMMENDATION (B) The details of siting and design are refused for the following reason:

### 1 NON2 Non Standard reason for refusal

The proposed replacement telecommunications mast installation, by virtue of the

increase in height and the significantly bulkier appearance, would result in an incongruous and visually obtrusive form of development which would be out of keeping with the visual character of the surrounding street scene. Furthermore, other potential solutions have not been fully investigated. The proposal is therefore contrary to Policies Pt.1.8, Pt1.11, BE13, BE37 and OE1 of the Hillingdon Unitary Development Plan Saved Policies September 2007.

#### **INFORMATIVES**

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The decision to REFUSE planning permission has been taken having regard to all relevant planning legislation, regulations, guidance, circulars and Council policies, including The Human Rights Act (1998) (HRA 1998) which makes it unlawful for the Council to act incompatibly with Convention rights, specifically Article 6 (right to a fair hearing); Article 8 (right to respect for private and family life); Article 1 of the First Protocol (protection of property) and Article 14 (prohibition of discrimination).

# 2 l53 Compulsory Informative (2)

The decision to REFUSE planning permission has been taken having regard to the policies and proposals in the Hillingdon Unitary Development Plan Saved Policies (September 2007) set out below, including Supplementary Planning Guidance, and to all relevant material considerations, including the London Plan (February 2008) and national guidance.

BE13 New development must harmonise with the existing street scene.

BE37 Telecommunications developments - siting and design

OE1 Protection of the character and amenities of surrounding properties

and the local area

#### 3. CONSIDERATIONS

#### 3.1 Site and Locality

The site comprises an existing 12.5m high monopole mobile phone mast and two ancillary equipment cabinets at the rear of the footway adjacent to the Royal Mail sorting office at the junction of East Way and Park Way in Ruislip Manor. Residential properties are located to the north and east of the site behind the sorting office. Commercial properties, some with flats above, are located to the west and south west of the site along Park Way. The Elm Park Club is located within a grassed amenity area to the south of the site on the opposite side of Park Way. The site falls within Ruislip Manor Town Centre, as designated in the adopted Hillingdon Unitary Development Saved Policies (September 2007).

# 3.2 Proposed Scheme

It is proposed to replace the existing 12.5m high monopole mobile phone mast with a 15m high (including antennas) monopole mobile phone mast incorporating six antennas. An existing equipment cabinet would also be replaced with a larger 1.9m by 0.75m by 1.65m high equipment cabinet. The mast would be coloured grey and the cabinets would be coloured green.

### 3.3 Relevant Planning History

Comment on Relevant Planning History

The planning history can be summarised as follows:

- \* 59076/APP/2003/2909 Installation of 12.5m high street furniture column with 3 antennas and two equipment cabinets (Consultation under Schedule 2, Part 24 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 2001) Prior approval not required 02/02/04.
- \* 59076/APP/2005/2429 Replacement of existing 12.5m high telecommunications mast with new 12.5m high monopole mobile phone mast and additional equipment cabinet (Consultation under Schedule 2, Part 24 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 (as amended) Withdrawn 19/09/05.

59076/APP/2005/2584 - Replacement of existing 12.5m high telecommunication mast with new 12.5m high monopole mobile phone mast and additional equipment cabinet (Consultation under Schedule 2, Part 24 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 (as amended) - Refused 16/11/05 due to concerns over its visual impact. This proposal was subsequently dismissed at appeal (ref: APP/R5510/A/06/2008179/NWF) on 25/05/06. The appeal Inspector concluded that the proposal would have an unacceptable visual impact on the surrounding area and that an insufficient site search had been carried out by the appellant.

# 4. Planning Policies and Standards

Not applicable to this application.

# **UDP / LDF Designation and London Plan**

The following UDP Policies are considered relevant to the application:-

Part 1 Policies:

PT1.11 To facilitate the development of telecommunications networks in a manner than minimises the environmental and amenity impact of structures and equipment.

#### Part 2 Policies:

BE13 New development must harmonise with the existing street scene.

BE37 Telecommunications developments - siting and design

OE1 Protection of the character and amenities of surrounding properties and the local

area

#### 5. Advertisement and Site Notice

5.1 Advertisement Expiry Date:- 14th January 2011

**5.2** Site Notice Expiry Date:- Not applicable

#### 6. Consultations

#### **External Consultees**

Consultations were sent to 92 local residents including schools close to the site. A total of 3 objections have been received. The objections are on the following grounds:

- i) Health implications to residents
- ii) The mast should be located elsewhere.

iii) Increase in height will make the mast more visible and noticeable.

Ministry Of Defence: No safeguarding objection.

#### **Internal Consultees**

Highways: no objection.

#### 7. MAIN PLANNING ISSUES

# 7.01 The principle of the development

The proposed installation does not exceed the limits set out in Part 24 of Schedule 2 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 (as amended). It would not be located in an environmentally sensitive area, such as a conservation area, where more restrictive criteria are applicable. Accordingly, the proposal constitutes permitted development.

In accordance with Part 24 of the Town and Country planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 (as amended) Vodafone is required to apply to the Local Planning Authority for a determination as to whether prior approval of the details of siting and design is required and, if so, for the Local Planning Authority to either approve or refuse those details.

# 7.02 Density of the proposed development

Not applicable to this type of development.

# 7.03 Impact on archaeology/CAs/LBs or Areas of Special Character

The site is not located with an archaeological priority area, the green belt or within a conservation area.

# 7.04 Airport safeguarding

The proposed mast will have no impact on airport safeguarding.

#### 7.05 Impact on the green belt

The proposed mast is not located within and will not be visible from the Green Belt.

# 7.06 Environmental Impact

No environmental impact resulting from the proposals.

# 7.07 Impact on the character & appearance of the area

The existing mast is already highly visible when viewed by motorists and pedestrians along Park Way and East Way, and from surrounding properties. The mast appears as a prominent and incongruous structure within the streetscene. At 12.5m high the mast is already considerably taller than the adjacent 8.6m high Royal Mail Sorting Office. The proposed mast would be significantly higher and bulkier in design than the nearby street lights and it is considered that the proposed 'top heavy' design would be significantly more visually obtrusive. This would draw attention to it within the streetscene. The additional cabinet would add to the overall visual impact of the proposal. The site location, on a busy footway near residential properties, is considered undesirable for the installation as proposed.

The applicant has not considered alternative sites (they argue that they don't need to as they are site sharing). This is not considered to be an acceptable argument for not carrying out a proper search of alternative sites, especially given the appeal history.

### 7.08 Impact on neighbours

Residents have expressed concerns about the possible health risks from the development. PPG8 indicates that the planning system is not the place for determining

health issues. It goes on to state that if a proposed mobile phone base station meets the ICNIRP guidelines, it should not be necessary to consider further the health aspects of the development and concerns about them. The applicant has confirmed that the proposed equipment would comply with ICNIRP guidelines. There is nothing to indicate that there is a risk to health, nor is there evidence to outweigh advice in PPG8 on health considerations. As such it is considered that the health fears of residents do not weigh significantly against the development. As such a reason for refusal on health grounds cannot be substantiated. The visual impact on adjoining residents is discussed above.

# 7.09 Living conditions for future occupiers

Not applicable to this type of application.

# 7.10 Traffic impact, car/cycle parking, pedestrian safety

Not applicable to this type of application.

### 7.11 Urban design, access and security

Not applicable to this type of application.

#### 7.12 Disabled access

Not applicable to this type of application.

# 7.13 Provision of affordable & special needs housing

Not applicable to this type of application.

# 7.14 Trees, Landscaping and Ecology

The proposed replacement mast and associated equipment would be located on a public pavement. There are no landscaping issues.

# 7.15 Sustainable waste management

Not applicable to this type of application.

# 7.16 Renewable energy / Sustainability

Not applicable to this type of application.

# 7.17 Flooding or Drainage Issues

Not applicable to this type of application.

#### 7.18 Noise or Air Quality Issues

Not applicable to this type of application.

# 7.19 Comments on Public Consultations

Concerns raised by residents have been addressed within the report.

#### 7.20 Planning Obligations

None.

#### 7.21 Expediency of enforcement action

None.

#### 7.22 Other Issues

None.

# 8. Observations of the Borough Solicitor

When making their decision, Members must have regard to all relevant planning legislation, regulations, guidance, circulars and Council policies. This will enable them to make an informed decision in respect of an application.

In addition Members should note that the Human Rights Act 1998 (HRA 1998) makes it unlawful for the Council to act incompatibly with Convention rights. Decisions by the

Committee must take account of the HRA 1998. Therefore, Members need to be aware of the fact that the HRA 1998 makes the European Convention on Human Rights (the Convention) directly applicable to the actions of public bodies in England and Wales. The specific parts of the Convention relevant to planning matters are Article 6 (right to a fair hearing); Article 8 (right to respect for private and family life); Article 1 of the First Protocol (protection of property) and Article 14 (prohibition of discrimination).

Article 6 deals with procedural fairness. If normal committee procedures are followed, it is unlikely that this article will be breached.

Article 1 of the First Protocol and Article 8 are not absolute rights and infringements of these rights protected under these are allowed in certain defined circumstances, for example where required by law. However any infringement must be proportionate, which means it must achieve a fair balance between the public interest and the private interest infringed and must not go beyond what is needed to achieve its objective.

Article 14 states that the rights under the Convention shall be secured without discrimination on grounds of 'sex, race, colour, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, association with a national minority, property, birth or other status'.

#### 9. Observations of the Director of Finance

Not applicable to this application.

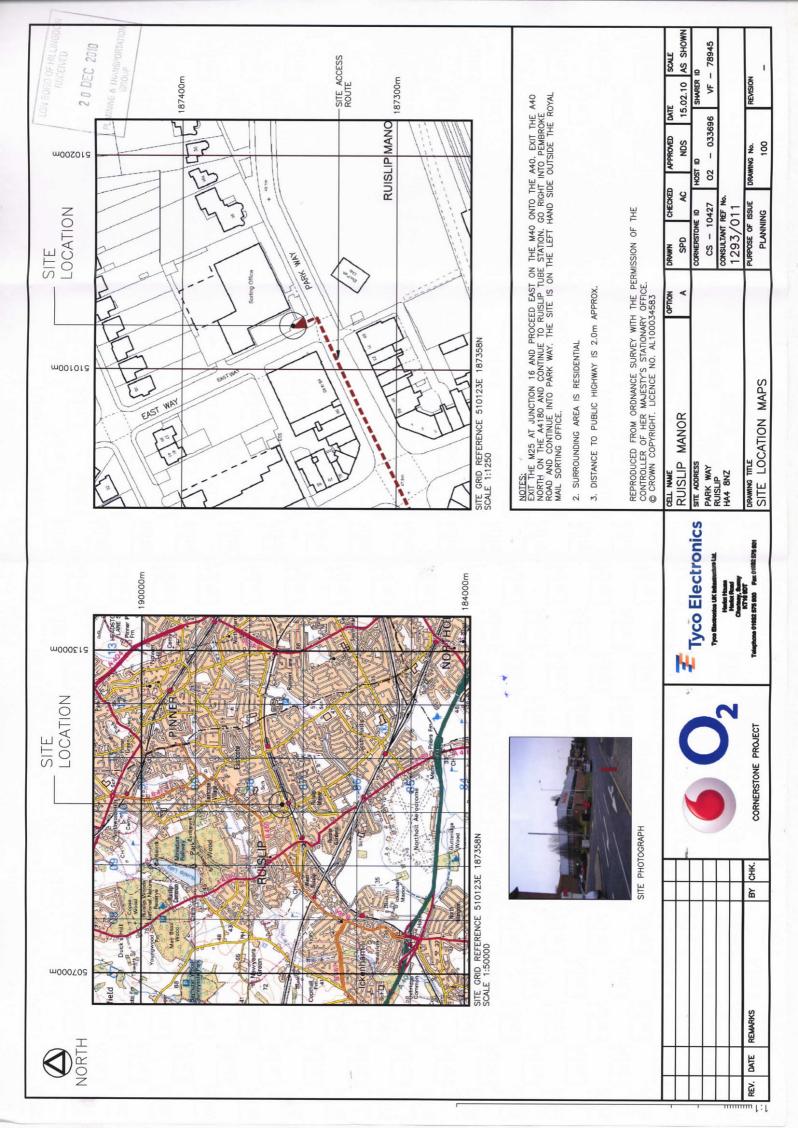
#### 10. CONCLUSION

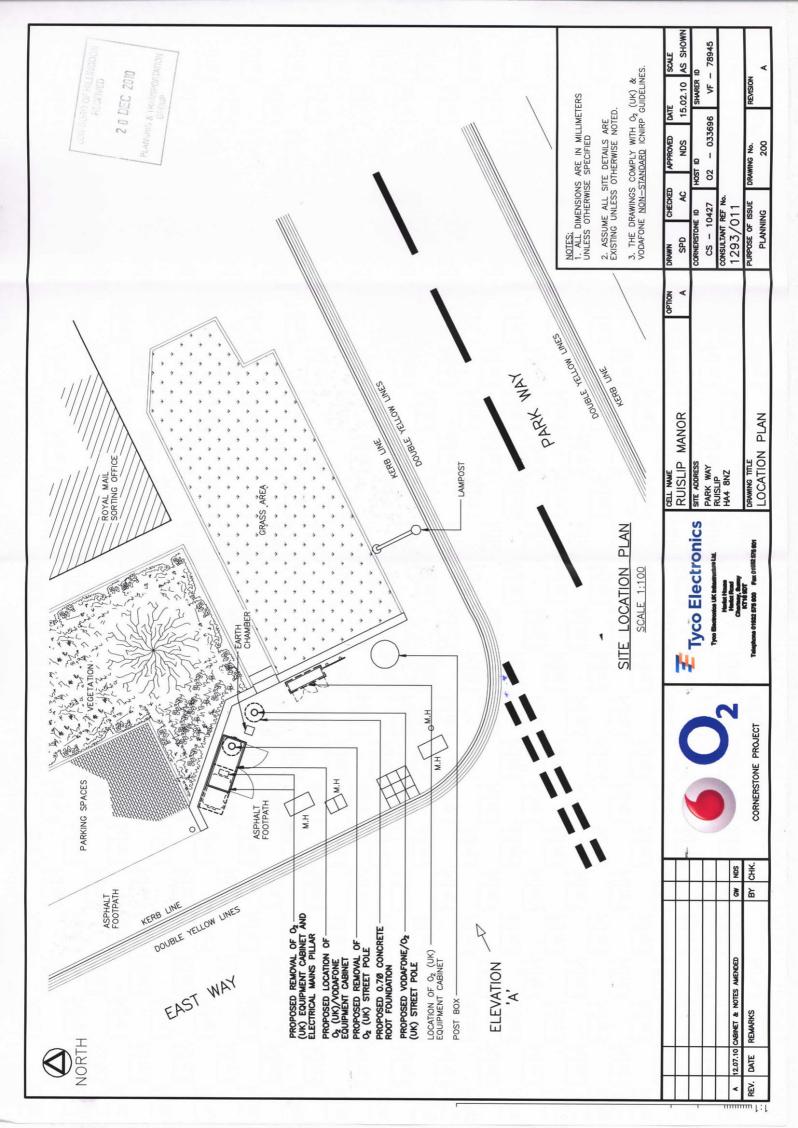
The proposed telecommunications mast would detract from the street scene, because it would be a readily apparent, incongruous element. The mast would not harmonise with the existing street scene and as such is contrary to Policy BE13, BE37 and OE1 of the Hillingdon Unitary Development Plan Saved Polices (September 2007).

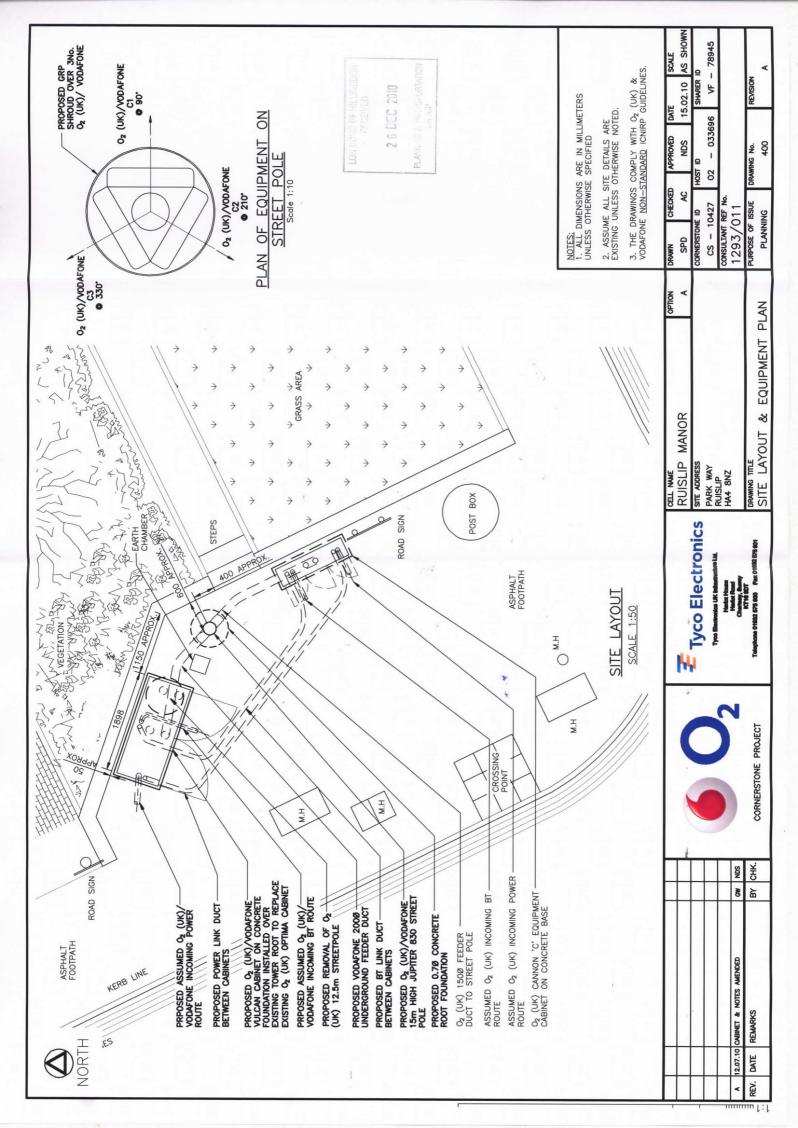
#### 11. Reference Documents

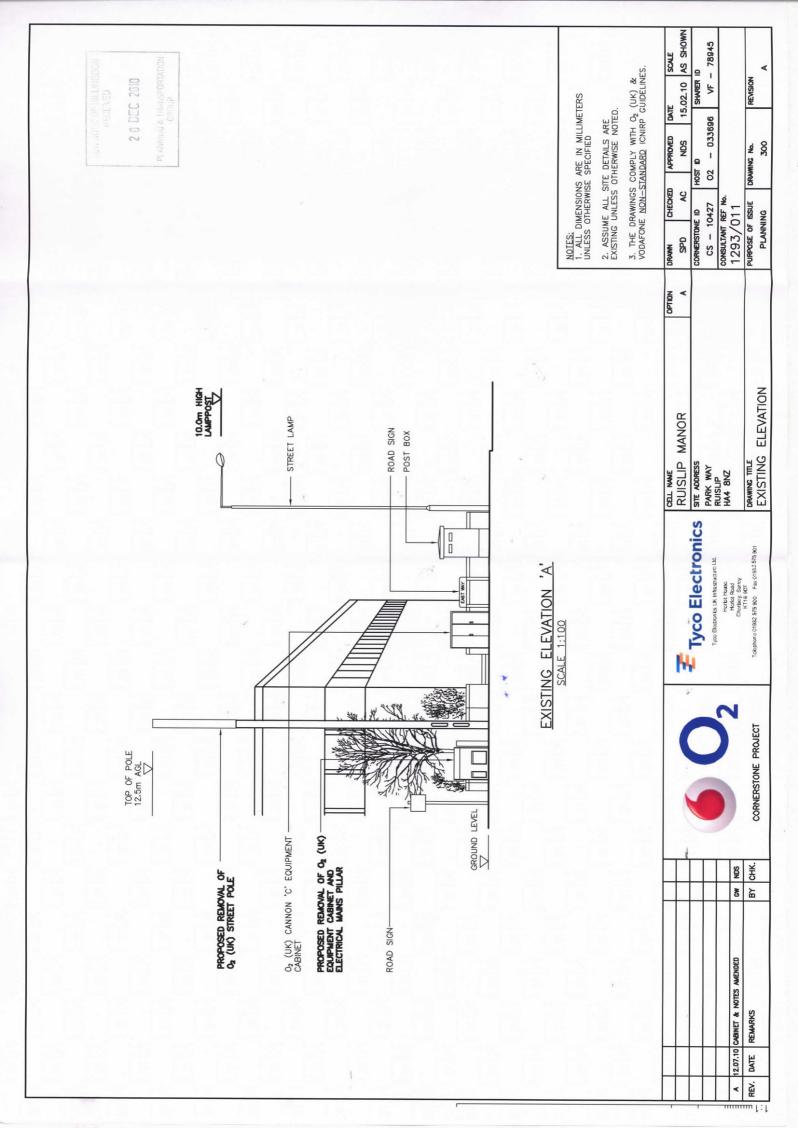
Hillingdon Unitary Development Plan Saved Policies (September 2007). PPG 8

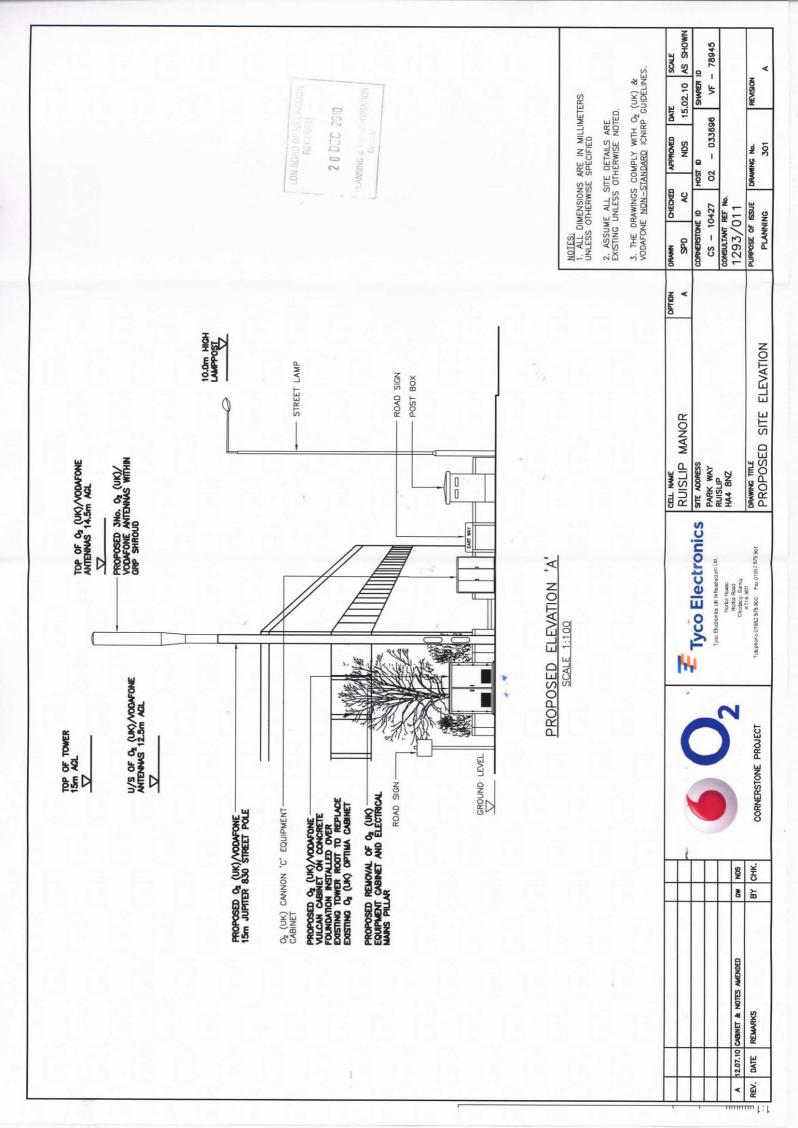
Contact Officer: Matt Kolaszewski Telephone No: 01895 250230

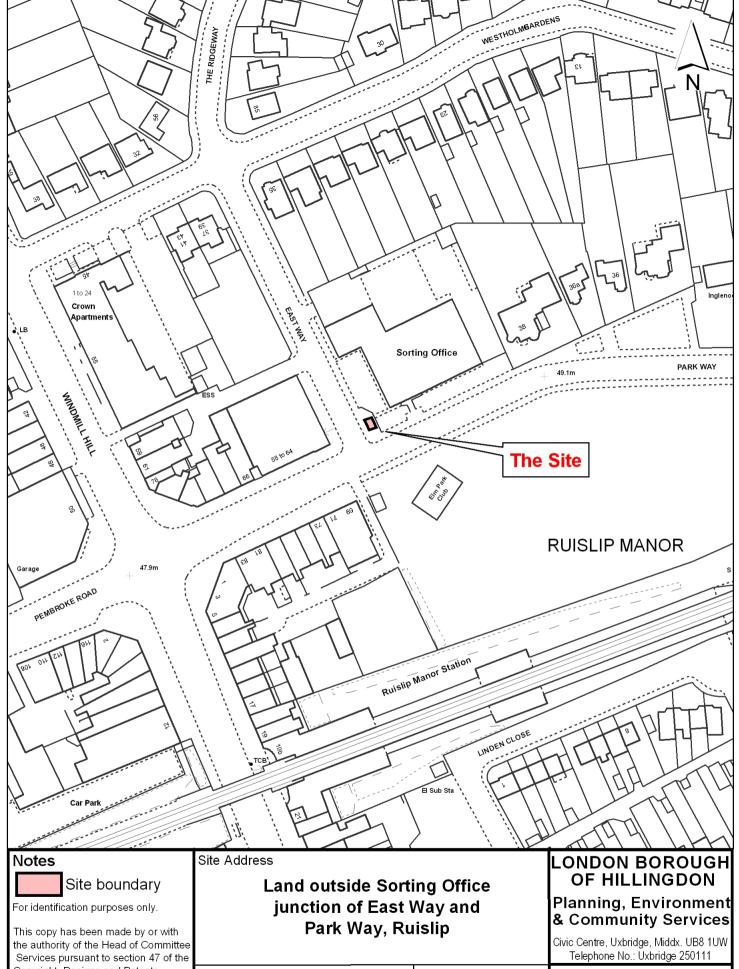












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Planning Application Ref: 59076/APP/2010/2931 Scale

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Planning Committee

North

Date

**February** 2011

