



**MITCHAM SOCIETY**

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## **24/P1101 Telecoms Equipment Opposite Fairgreen Parade Upper Green West Mitcham**

PRIOR APPROVAL TELECOMS APPLICATION FOR THE INSTALLATION OF A 17.5 METRE HIGH MONOPOLE SUPPORTING 6 NO. ANTENNAS, THE INSTALLATION OF 2 NO. EQUIPMENT CABINETS AND A METER CABINET AND DEVELOPMENT WORKS ANCILLARY THERETO.

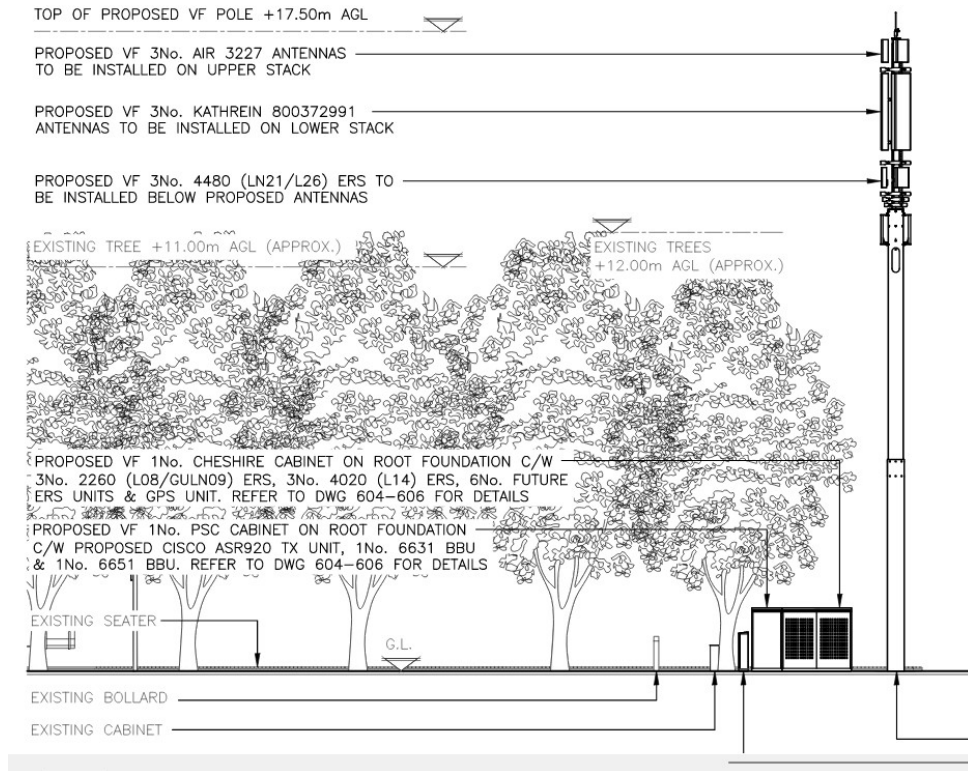
### **Mitcham Society comments**

**May 2024**

Mitcham Society has considered this application for prior approval for telecoms equipment on registered Green opposite Fair Green Parade at Upper Green West, Mitcham Village. We have the following comments.

1. This monopole and its associated cabinets would impose significant harmful visual intrusion and clutter on Mitcham Fair Green, the historic and protected open space that is at the heart of Mitcham Village. It is a registered Green and as such there is provision only to permit development that would enhance enjoyment of the Green. Clearly this mast and its associated cabinets do not fit into that definition.
2. A 17.5m mast would dwarf our iconic and much loved 8.5m Grade II listed clock tower, which is the focal point of Fair Green, thereby causing harm to a designated heritage asset. This magnitude of intrusion on Mitcham Village's central and most important open space is unacceptable.
3. The photomontage supplied with this planning application, *24P1101\_Photomontage Report* presents several images of the proposed monopole, all of which seem designed to downplay the degree of visual intrusion that would be realised. The proposed cabinets, which are significantly larger than any other structure on the Village Green, are barely visible in these montages, and none give a fair impression of the number of cabinets, their overall size, nor the height of the monopole in relation to its surroundings.
4. More useful in this respect is *24P1101\_Proposed South West Elevation*, which clearly demonstrates that the monopole would tower above the existing trees, its 17.5m dwarfing their 12m of height. This drawing also makes clear that the cabinet infrastructure would be

far greater in mass than anything else currently present. The effect on visual amenity both close up and from a distance, would be highly intrusive and unacceptable.



- In February 2024 Merton Council refused [24/P0166](#) a prior approval application for a monopole and associated cabinets on similarly protected Green at Cranmer Farm Close. In the Decision Letter officers wrote:

“The proposal, by reason of its prominent siting and height would result in an unduly dominant, incongruous and visually intrusive form of development that would adversely affect the character and appearance of the locality, ..... The scheme results in harm that would not be outweighed by the public benefit of the scheme.”

The same considerations apply to this application. It would also “by reason of its prominent siting and height result in an unduly dominant, incongruous and visually intrusive form of development that would adversely affect the character and appearance of the locality.” It would also result in “harm that would not be outweighed by the public benefits of the scheme.”

- In October 2022 Merton Council refused [22/P2614](#) a prior approval application for a monopole and associated cabinets oppose #6 Cricket Green. In the Decision Letter officers wrote “The proposal, due to its design, siting, appearance, height and scale would be visually

intrusive and inappropriately conspicuous, harming views into and from the adjacent Open Space.” The same considerations apply to this current application.

7. Mitcham Fair Green lies within 3km of a helipad at St Georges Hospital. The applicant should have provided evidence that the operator of this helipad has been notified, and no such evidence has been published at the planning portal. Even if such evidence is provided, our objections to this application remain intact.
8. Mitcham Village is characterised by its village green, market square, village pond and range of independent shops. Current efforts by Merton Council to enhance the village setting and promote the Mitcham Village as a place people want to spend time would be significantly undermined and harmed by the visual intrusion of this monopole and its associated cabinets. It would be detrimental to the current work, and would cause long term, enduring damage to Mitcham Village. It would also cause harm to a designated heritage asset – the Grade II listed clock tower.
9. Merton Council has been strong in the past in refusing similarly harmful Prior Approval applications in the Mitcham area, including at sensitive sites in Hallowfield Way and Church Road. Like them, this application should be refused.