

Director of Environment & Regeneration
London Borough of Merton
Civic Centre
London Road
Morden SM4 5DX



6 June 2023

Dear Mr Gardener

23/P1089 – Telecoms pole opposite 96 Copse Hill, Wimbledon

The Wimbledon Society wishes to object to the above application.

It is stated in the application that “The proposed location of a new mast shown above will assimilate well into the immediate street scene and will not be detrimental” and “it is considered that this will not overly detract from the character of the existing streetscape”. We fundamentally disagree with both of these statements. Simply saying something does not make it true.

The Draft Local Plan, in Policy D12.8C6, on Digital Infrastructure, says that “telecommunications apparatus and equipment should be designed and located so that they do not detract from the visual quality ... of the public realm, or detract from the setting and context of buildings and the street scene”. Also, it says that “in particularly sensitive areas ... (proposals will be expected to) ... locate equipment in underground chambers”. The proposed equipment cabinets are considered crude, out of scale and uncoordinated, and would detract from the street scene, and the visual quality of the area. This site is highly visible, and therefore any equipment should follow Council Plan policy and be placed underground.

The Society would like to suggest that the Council has a meeting with all the operators to work out a proper Borough-wide plan for sharing infrastructure, where the new equipment needs to be, how the cabinets can be put underground or massively redesigned etc. otherwise we have ad hoc individual proposals that pleases neither.

Yours sincerely

Chris Goodair
Chair, Wimbledon Society Planning & Environment Committee

Please send all correspondence by email to chairmanpc@wimbledonsociety.org.uk