

Planning Guidelines for Telecommunications Apparatus

The Council's objective is to enable the introduction of modern telecommunications equipment subject to its impact on amenity and the appearance of the local environment.

The relevant policy in the Wandsworth UDP, Adopted August 2003, is Policy INF2, which states:-

Policy INF2 Proposals for telecommunications equipment will only be permitted if:

(a) it is sited and designed to minimise visual impact on the built and natural environment, taking account of the scale of the proposal, the sensitivity of the location, opportunities for shared use of existing facilities, and any overriding technical requirements; and

(b) the amount of equipment is kept to minimum and any surplus equipment is removed.

The Guidelines

To achieve this policy the following guidelines should be complied with:

1. Apparatus should, wherever possible, be located at the rear of the property and should be as unobtrusive as possible.
2. In exceptional circumstances where there is no alternative to a location on the front of the building, the apparatus should not be unduly prominent.
3. In normal circumstances more than one satellite antenna per building will not be acceptable (exceptions may include tall buildings, subject to effect on amenity).
4. To reduce visual impact, applicants should:-
 - * demonstrate that the smallest feasible equipment is to be used;
 - * where possible use equipment of a colour that will blend with surroundings;
 - * screen apparatus where appropriate.
5. Proposals will normally be resisted where the location of apparatus:-
 - * results in a significant loss of light or outlook, or overshadowing to a neighbouring property;
 - * results in a detrimental effect on the character or setting of a listed building, a conservation area, an Area of Special Character or an area of open space.
6. Suitable locations should be shared by different users where possible to reduce the number of sites required, thereby minimising impact.
7. In new buildings, where it is likely that telecommunications apparatus may be required, adequate ducting for underground telecommunications cables should be installed to avoid the necessity of visually intrusive apparatus having to be installed later.
8. Equipment should be removed if and when it is no longer required.
9. In view of the rapid developments in the telecommunications field, planning permission will normally be granted for a temporary period in appropriate cases to enable the Council to review the situation.

These guidelines will be monitored and reviewed in the light of any significant changes in the telecommunications field.

For further information and advice please see the Government's guide:
Installation of satellite television dishes: householder's planning guide.