

PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

Development Management Service
Planning and Development Division
Environment and Regeneration Department
PO Box 333
222 Upper Street
London N1 1YA

PLANNING SUB-COMMITTEE A		
Date:	1 December 2015	NON-EXEMPT

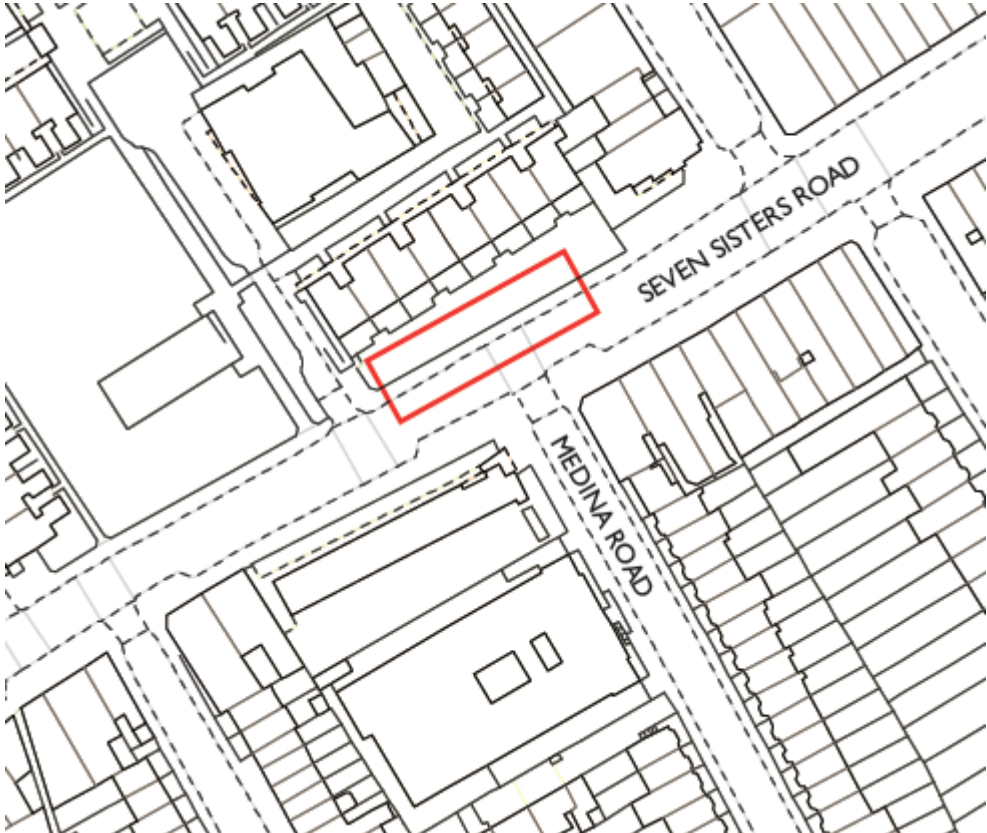
Application number	P2015/3963/ADV
Application type	Advertisement Consent (Council's own)
Ward	Finsbury Park
Listed building	Not Listed
Conservation area	N/A
Development Plan Context	Finsbury Park Core Strategy Key Area Major Cycle Route Within 100m of Transport for London Road Network Road
Licensing Implications	None
Site Address	Grass verge outside Seven Sisters Road (north side), opposite Medina Road, Seven Sisters Road, London, N7 7PU
Proposal	Installation of a freestanding internally illuminated advertisement display panel (6 sheet) on the grass verge outside Seven Sisters Road, opposite Medina Road

Case Officer	Emily Benedek
Applicant	Islington Council
Agent	Jeremy Foster

1. RECOMMENDATION

The Committee is asked to resolve to **GRANT** advertisement consent - subject to the conditions set out in Appendix 1.

2. SITE PLAN (site outlined in black)



3. PHOTOS OF SITE/STREET

Location of sign



Image 1: Aerial Photo of the Front of the Site



Image 2: Street View of the Site

Location of sign

4. SUMMARY

- 4.1 Advertisement consent is sought for the installation of a free standing internally illuminated advertisement display panel (6 sheet) on the grass verge on the north side of Seven Sisters Road, opposite Medina Road.
- 4.2 The application is brought to committee because it is a Council-own development.
- 4.3 The proposed advertisement display panel will neither harm the character or appearance of the adjacent buildings nor the wider street scene, nor will it materially

affect the amenity of adjacent residents or have a detrimental impact on pedestrian and highways safety.

4.4 It is recommended that advertisement consent be granted subject to conditions.

5. SITE AND SURROUNDING

5.1 The application site relates to the grass verge fronting Seven Sisters Road, with fencing separating the site from the five storey block of residential units to the rear. These residential units to the rear form part of the Andover Estate. The site is located opposite the junction with Medina Road. The immediate area is characterised by a mix of residential and commercial units varying between three and five storeys in height.

5.2 The building is not listed however the site is not located in a conservation area. The surrounding area is of mixed character.

6. PROPOSAL (IN DETAIL)

6.1 Advertisement consent is sought for the installation of a freestanding internally illuminated advertisement display panel (6 sheet) on the grass verge on the north side of Seven Sisters Road, opposite Medina Road.

6.2 The proposed sign will measure a maximum of 2.695 metres in height, 1.37 metres in width and 0.24 metres in depth. The visible area of the digital screen display will measure 1.15 metres in width and 1.76 metres in height. The proposed display will be internally illuminated and the LED backlit display brightness will be fully adjustable to distinguish between day and night ambient levels.

Revisions:

6.3 Revisions were made to the plans on 19 October 2015 as the sign was changed from being non-illuminated to internally illuminated, a full neighbour reconsultation was carried out on the amended plans.

7. RELEVANT HISTORY:

PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

7.1 None

ENFORCEMENT:

7.2 None

PRE-APPLICATION ADVICE:

7.3 None

8. CONSULTATION

Public Consultation

- 8.1 Letters were sent to 47 occupants of adjoining and nearby properties at Seven Sisters Road, Medina Road and Roth Walk on the 06/10/15. A site notice was placed outside the site on 8/10/15. Therefore the public consultation expired on 29/10/15. Neighbours were re-consulted on amended plans on 19/10/15, the consultation period therefore expired on 12/11/15.

At the time of the writing of this report one (1) objection had been received from the public with regard to the application. The issues raised can be summarised as follows (with the paragraph that provides responses to each issue indicated within brackets):

- Addition of visual and street clutter (10.5)
 - No need for advertising in this location (8.2)
 - Loss of green space (10.4)
 - Proposal will set precedent for other advertisement signs (8.2)
- 8.2 Each application is considered on its own merits, for advertisement applications the only issues that can be assessed are impact on amenity and highway safety, 'need' is not something that can be considered. If Members are minded to approve this application, it would not set a precedent for allowing other advertisements in this location.

Internal Consultees

- 8.3 **Design and Conservation Officer:** Objects to the proposal. Very prominent location, clutter to the streetscene and not particularly attractive addition to pedestrian experience along Seven Sisters Road.
- 8.4 **Highways:** No objection.

External Consultees

- 8.5 **Transport for London:** No objection to the principle of development subject to the inclusion of conditions.

9. RELEVANT POLICIES

Details of all relevant policies and guidance notes are attached in Appendix 2. This report considers the proposal against the following development plan documents.

National Guidance

- 9.1 The National Planning Policy Framework 2012 and Planning Policy Guidance seek to secure positive growth in a way that effectively balances economic, environmental and social progress for this and future generations. The NPPF and PPG are material considerations and have been taken into account as part of the assessment of these proposals. Development Plan

- 9.2 The Development Plan is comprised of the London Plan 2015 (Consolidated with Alterations since 2011), Islington Core Strategy 2011, Development Management Policies 2013, The Finsbury Local Plan 2013 and Site Allocations 2013. The policies of the Development Plan that are considered relevant to this application are listed at Appendix 2 to this report.

Designations

- 9.3 The site has the following designations under the London Plan 2015, Islington Core Strategy 2011, Development Management Policies 2013, and Site Allocations 2013:
- Finsbury Park Core Strategy Key Area
 - Major Cycle Route
 - Within 100m of Transport for London Road Network Road

Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) / Document (SPD)

- 9.4 The SPGs and/or SPDs which are considered relevant are listed in Appendix 2.

10. ASSESSMENT

- 10.1 The main issues arising from this proposal relate to:

- Amenity
- Highways Safety

Amenity

- 10.2 Islington's Planning Policies and Guidance encourage high quality design which complements the character of an area. In particular, policy DM2.1 of Islington's adopted Development Management Policies requires all forms of development to be high quality, incorporating inclusive design principles while making a positive contribution to the local character and distinctiveness of an area based upon an understanding and evaluation of its defining characteristics. Furthermore, Development Management Policy DM2.6 requires all advertisements to be of a high standard and contribute to a safe and attractive environment. Any new sign should not cause a public safety hazard or contribute to a loss of amenity and should be appropriate to the building,
- 10.3 The application site is not located in a conservation area, and is located on a TfL red route, a main thoroughfare through the Borough. Whilst the buildings to the rear of the application site itself are not of the same high quality design as other buildings within the locality, it is important to ensure that any new signage would not have a detrimental impact on amenity.
- 10.4 The proposed advertisement sign will be positioned on the grass verge close to the railings which separate the verge from the existing pavement, not on designated open space. Several large trees line the grass verge which partially obscures the residential units behind. To the rear of the grass verge is a terrace of five storey residential dwellings which are part of the Andover Estate and the height and scale of these buildings form a dominant presence and setting along the north side of Seven Sisters Road, against which the setting of the advertisements should be assessed.

- 10.5 The proposed sign will measure 2.695 metres in height and will be set back from the edge of the public highway. It is considered that when viewed against the back drop of the neighbouring residential properties and verdant landscape, the proposed advertisement sign will not create an overly dominant feature that would have a detrimental impact on amenity. Immediately adjacent to the site is a public telephone box and the proposed advertisement will be located close to the existing traffic lights. It is therefore considered that the proposal will not result in unnecessary and additional clutter to the detriment of the existing landscape. The size of the proposed sign is also relatively small in relation to the grass verge on which it will be located. Furthermore, as the sign is not located in close proximity to any neighbouring residential windows, it is not considered that the signs, by reason of their illumination, would have a detrimental impact on residential amenity.
- 10.6 Given the above, the proposal is considered to be consistent with the aims of Council objectives on design and in accordance with policies 7.4 (Character) of the London Plan 2015, CS8 (Enhancing Islington's character) of the Core Strategy 2011 and Development Management Policies DM2.1 and DM2.6.

Highways Safety

- 10.7 It should be ensured that all new advertisement signs do not cause a hazard to pedestrians or road users, as a result of their visual dominance and method of illumination, in accordance with policy DM2.6 of the Islington Development Management Policies 2013.
- 10.8 The proposed sign will be internally illuminated, will not have flashing illumination and will have an LED backlit display brightness which can be adjusted to suit the day/night ambient levels. The sign will be located on the grass verge which is protected by the railings to ensure there are no public safety hazards and maintain the free flow of pedestrian traffic. The plans have been reviewed by both the Council's Highways team and Transport for London who, subject to attached conditions, raised no objections to the proposal in terms of its size, siting or method of illumination and did not consider the proposed sign would have a detrimental impact on highways safety. The proposal is therefore not considered to cause a hazard to pedestrians or road users in line with policy DM2.6 of the Islington Development Management Policies June 2013.

11.0 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Summary

- 11.1 The proposed advertisement display panel is considered to be acceptable with regards to amenity and highways safety.
- 11.2 In accordance with the above assessment, it is considered that the proposed development is consistent with the policies of the London Plan, the Islington Core Strategy, the Islington Development Plan and associated Supplementary Planning Documents and should be approved accordingly.

Conclusion

- 11.3 It is recommended that planning permission be granted subject to conditions as set out in Appendix 1 – RECOMMENDATIONS.

APPENDIX 1 – RECOMMENDATIONS

RECOMMENDATION A

That the grant of planning permission be subject to conditions to secure the following:

List of Conditions

1	Standard advertisement conditions
	<p>CONDITION: Any advertisement displayed and any site used for the display of advertisements, shall be maintained in a clean and tidy condition to the reasonable satisfaction of the Local Planning Authority.</p> <p>Any structure or hoarding erected or used principally for the purpose of displaying advertisements shall be maintained in a safe condition.</p> <p>Where an advertisement is required under these Regulations to be removed, the removal shall be carried out to the reasonable satisfaction of the Local Planning Authority.</p> <p>No advertisement is to be displayed without permission of the owner of the site or any other people with an interest in the site entitled to grant permission.</p> <p>No advertisement shall be sited or displayed so as to obscure, or hinder the ready interpretation of any road traffic sign, railway signal or aid to navigation by water or air, or so as otherwise to render hazardous the use of any highway, railway, waterway (including any coastal waters) or aerodrome (civil or military).</p>
2	Luminance
	<p>CONDITION: The advertisement display(s) shall be statically illuminated and the illumination shall not exceed a maximum steady brightness of 300 candelas per square metre during the hours of darkness consistent with the guidance set out in the Institute of Lighting Professionals (ILP) publication: “The Brightness of Illuminated Advertisements” (PLG05, January 2015).</p> <p>The advertisement displays shall be carried out strictly in accordance with the details so approved and shall be maintained as such thereafter.</p> <p>REASON: In the interests of visual amenity and highway safety.</p>
3	Display time
	<p>CONDITION: The minimum display time for each advertisement shall be 10 seconds, the use of message sequencing for the same product is prohibited and the advertisements shall not include features/equipment which would allow interactive messages/advertisements to be displayed.</p> <p>REASON: In the interests of visual amenity and highway safety.</p>
4	Special effects
	<p>CONDITION: There shall be no special effects (including noise, smell, smoke, animation, exposed cold cathode tubing, flashing, scrolling, three dimensional, intermittent or video elements) of any kind during the time that any message is displayed.</p> <p>REASON: In the interests of visual amenity and highway safety.</p>
5	Display functions
	<p>CONDITION: The interval between successive displays shall be instantaneous (0.1 seconds or less), the complete screen shall change, there shall be no visual</p>

	effects (including fading, swiping or other animated transition methods) between successive displays and the display will include a mechanism to freeze the image in the event of a malfunction.
6	Installation and maintenance
	<p>CONDITION: The footway and carriageway on the TLRN and SRN must not be blocked during the installation and maintenance of the advertising panel. Temporary obstruction during the installation must be kept to a minimum and should not encroach on the clear space needed to provide safe passage for pedestrians, or obstruct the flow of traffic.</p> <p>REASON: In the interests of highway safety.</p>

List of Informatives:

1	Positive statement
	<p>To assist applicants in a positive manner, the Local Planning Authority has produced policies and written guidance, all of which is available on the Council's website.</p> <p>A pre-application advice service is also offered and encouraged. The LPA and the applicant have worked positively and proactively in a collaborative manner through both the pre-application and the application stages to deliver an acceptable development in accordance with the requirements of the NPPF.</p> <p>The LPA delivered the decision in a timely manner in accordance with the requirements of the NPPF.</p>

APPENDIX 2: RELEVANT POLICIES

This appendix lists all relevant development plan policies and guidance notes pertinent to the determination of this planning application.

1 National Guidance

The National Planning Policy Framework 2012 seeks to secure positive growth in a way that effectively balances economic, environmental and social progress for this and future generations. The NPPF is a material consideration and has been taken into account as part of the assessment of these proposals.

2. Development Plan

The Development Plan is comprised of the London Plan 2015, Islington Core Strategy 2011, Development Management Policies 2013 and the Finsbury Local Plan 2013. The following policies of the Development Plan are considered relevant to this application:

A) The London Plan 2015 - Spatial Development Strategy for Greater London

3 London's people

7 London's living places and spaces
Policy 7.4 Local character
Policy 7.6 Architecture

B) Islington Core Strategy 2011

Spatial Strategy

Policy CS8 (Enhancing Islington's Character)

Strategic Policies

Policy CS9 (Protecting and Enhancing Islington's Built and Historic Environment)

C) Development Management Policies June 2013

Design and Heritage

DM2.1 Design

DM2.6 Advertisements

5. Designations

The site has the following designations under the London Plan 2015, Islington Core Strategy 2011, Development Management Policies 2013, Finsbury Local Plan 2013 and Site Allocations 2013:

- Finsbury Park Core Strategy Key Area
- Major Cycle Route
- Within 100m of Transport for London Road

Network Road

6. **Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) / Document (SPD)**

The following SPGs and/or SPDs are relevant:

Islington Local Development Plan

London Plan

Urban Design Guide (2006)