

TWC/2015/0373

Telecommunications Mast Vodafone, Brookside Avenue, Brookside, Telford, Shropshire

Determination under Part 16 of the GPDO for the replacement of 12m high monopole with a 17.5m high monopole and 1no. cabinet

APPLICANT

Vodafone Limited,

RECEIVED

30/04/2015

PARISH

Stirchley and Brookside

WARD

Brookside

OFFICER

Diane Ferriday

THIS APPLICATION HAS BEEN CALLED IN BY CLLR ARNOLD ENGLAND FOR CONSIDERATION BY MEMBERS OF PLANNING COMMITTEE.

OBJECTIONS RECEIVED: Yes

MAIN ISSUES: Residential amenity, health

PROPOSAL

This application is for the erection of a 17.5 metre high monopole telecommunications mast and an additional equipment cabinet. The mast would replace the existing 12 metre high monopole mast and would be located approximately 3 metres to the East of the existing mast. The additional equipment cabinet would measure approximately 0.85m x 0.8m and would be 1.8m high and it would be located adjacent to an existing cabinet on a concrete foundation.

The application has been submitted under the terms of Part 16 (Communications) of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 2015. The principle of development is established and this application is to assess the siting and appearance of the development only.

SITE AND SURROUNDINGS

The application site is on the northern side of Brookside Avenue situated on the grass verge. Abraham Close is adjacent to the North and Briarwood is located to the South on the opposite side of Brookside Avenue. The monopole is in line with street lights along the footpath; to the rear is a line of trees where the existing cabinets are located. Opposite and nearby are bus shelters.

The immediate surrounding area is residential with Brookside estate opposite.

SUMMARISED CONSULTATIONS

Standard consultation responses

Stirchley & Brookside Parish Council: No objection

Highways: No objection

Cllr Arnold has requested that the application be considered by members of the Planning Committee and has objected on the following grounds:

- Mobile phone masts are a risk to public health and larger masts are a larger risk,
- All mobile phone masts should be sited away from dwellings, hospitals and schools as per the recommendations made from Telford and Wrekin Scrutiny 2005.

Neighbour consultation responses

A total of 73 letters were sent to the occupiers of neighbouring properties. As a result 5 letters of objection have been received and summarised as below;

- 17.5m mast will tower over surrounding properties from close and far away
- Possible effects on the value of properties
- Look out of place in its surroundings
- Residents objections should be respected for once
- Mast already accompanied the neighbouring mast just few meters away
- Object due to unknown safety consequence to health
- Too many masts in the area

RELEVANT HISTORY

W2004/1245: Determination under Part 24 of the GPDO for the erection of a 12m monopole, 3 dual polar antennas, equipment cabinets and ancillary development
Telecommunication Determination Approval: 22/11/2004.

RELEVANT POLICIES

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

Section 5: Supporting High Quality Communications Infrastructure.

Wrekin Local Plan:

UD2 Design

T21 Telecommunications

Supplementary Planning Documents

Telecommunications Development (May 2009)

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

Development permitted by Class A, Part 16 of Schedule 2 to the GPDO 2015 is conditional on the operator making a prior approval application to the LPA for its siting and appearance. In determining the application, the Local Planning Authority can only consider the siting and appearance of the proposed development and the principle of the development cannot be a consideration as the development is permitted development by the GPDO 2015.

The National Planning Policy Framework supports high quality communications infrastructure as it is essential for sustainable economic growth and plays a vital role in enhancing the provision of local community facilities and services.

In February 2013 Vodafone and Telefonica successfully bid for 4G spectrum. 4G is the next major enhancement to mobile radio communications networks and allows customers to use ultra-fast speeds when browsing the internet, streaming videos or

sending emails. The applicant has stated that it enables faster downloads but that additions / upgrades to base stations or associated equipment may be needed. Vodafone and Telefonica aim to comply with planning policy by ensuring apparatus is installed in existing buildings and structures including masts where possible rather than by installing additional masts.

Concern regarding health has been raised by objectors. The application has been submitted with an ICNIRP (International Commission on Non-Ionising Radiation Protection) certificate which confirms the proposed equipment complies with the necessary public health guidelines agreed by Central Government.

The increased height of the monopole mast is considered necessary by the operator to retain and significantly improve the continued need for coverage and capacity across the surrounding area. The upgrade of the existing single monopole seeks to consolidate Telefonica and Vodafone's 2G, 3G and 4G network onto one structure; this capability to share the apparatus complies with Policy T21 of the Wrekin Local Plan where the need for an additional mast nearby is avoided.

Concerns have been raised to the height of the mast and the visual impact; the proposed mast would be taller and slightly thicker than the existing mast but it is considered that the addition would be a relatively minor change to the existing mast. The proposed cabinet would be narrower than the existing and of the same height. It is to be sited back from the footpath to lessen any impact to pedestrian users.

It is therefore considered that the siting and appearance of the monopole mast and cabinet is acceptable and would not cause any significant additional harm upon the character and appearance of the area or upon the visual amenities of nearby residents; there is no sustainable reasons to warrant refusal of this prior approval application.

**RECOMMENDATION:
PRIOR APPROVAL REQUIRED AND TO GRANT CONSENT**

Conditions

C38 Accordance with approved plans