
Site Address: Verge at corner of Perseus Place and Crookhorn Lane, adj
Church of the Good Shepherd, Waterlooville

Proposal: Application for Prior Approval for Proposed 15m 5G telecoms installation:
H3G street pole and additional equipment cabinets.

Application Type: Telecommunications Notification

Application No: APP/23/00531 Expiry Date: 05/09/2023

Applicant: Mr Wilson
Signal Infrastructure Limited
UK

Agent: Mr Cameron Wilson Case Officer: Selina Donophy
DOT Surveying

Ward: Purbrook

Recommendation: **GRANT PRIOR APPROVAL**

1 Site Description

This application site comprises an area of grass verge located at the corner of Perseus Place and Crookhorn Lane, adjacent to the Church of the Good Shepherd in Waterlooville. To the north-west of the application site are some shops and to the south west is the Centurion Pub. To the south and west of the site are residential properties.

2 Planning History

APP/23/00346 Application to determine whether prior approval is required for proposed 5G telecoms installation: H3G 15m street pole and additional equipment cabinets.- Prior Approval Required and Refused 29/06/23

3 Proposal

Application for Prior Approval for Proposed 15m 5G telecoms installation: H3G street pole and additional equipment cabinets.

4 Policy Considerations

National Planning Policy Framework
Havant Borough Council Borough Design Guide SPD December 2011
Havant Borough Council Parking SPD July 2016

Havant Borough Local Plan (Core Strategy) March 2011

CS16 (High Quality Design)
CS19 (Effective Provision of Infrastructure)
DM10 (Pollution)

Havant Borough Local Plan (Allocations) July 2014

AL1 (Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development)

Listed Building Grade: Not applicable.
Conservation Area: Not applicable.

5 Statutory and Non Statutory Consultations

Councillor Husky Patel

No comment received

Councillor Ms C Diamond - Purbrook Ward

No comment received

Councillor Ryan Brent

No comment received

Department of Trade and Industry

No comment received

Environmental Health Manager, Community Group

No comment received

Hampshire Highways

Thank you for your consultation on the above planning application. The Highway Authority wish to make the following comments.

The proposed location for the mast is on a grass verge along Crookhorn Lane adjacent to Perseus Place. The verge is currently grass with a lighting column, signage and an inspection chamber. An existing hedge is also present to the north of the proposed mast.

The Highway Authority previously refused the proposed location for a 5G mast and associated equipment cabinets under planning reference APP/23/00346 due to the location compromising the Highway Authorities ability to deliver walking and cycling improvements in the future as identified on the Havant LCWIP. Within the formal response dated 16 June 2023, the Highway Authority identified a number of alternative locations in which a 5G mast would be supported that would not prevent future delivery of these identified improvements.

The Highway Authority are satisfied that this is a more suitable location which does not compromise on the future delivery of identified pedestrian and cycle improvements along Crookhorn Lane.

Having regard to the above, the Highway Authority provide no objection to the proposed location of the 5G mast and associated equipment cabinets.

Southern Gas Network

No comment received

6 Community Involvement

This application was publicised in accordance with the Council's Code of Practice for Publicity of Planning Applications approved at minute 207/6/92 (as amended), as a result of which the following publicity was undertaken:

Number of neighbour notification letters sent: 11

Number of site notices: 1

Statutory advertisement: Not applicable.

Number of representations received: 30

Comment	Officer Comment
<i>Case officer comment - 30 objections received which are the same as below</i> Comment:I object to this Planning Application as the siting is incredibly inappropriate and the appearance of the mast is ugly. It will be detrimental to the area. A further consideration is that the mast will instil anxiety in the local residents regarding the lack of medium-term epidemiological medical research that proves that living near a 5G mast is safe and healthy. It is not fair to impose this level of anxiety on millions of people all over the UK. You must please realise that the research to conclusively prove the safety of 5G does not exist. Everyone knows that too much exposure to electromagnetic radiation can cause cancer. We know that the effects are cumulative over time. We should wait for the researchers to prove safety. As argued by John Frank, Emeritus Professor of Epidemiology at the University of Edinburgh. Here is the British Medical Journal reviewing his paper: https://www.bmj.com/company/newsroom/stop-global-roll-out-of-5g-networks-until-safety-isconfirmed-urges-expert/ The Self-Certification letter which has been lodged with the Planning Application usually reads as follows: "is designed to be in full compliance with the requirements of the radio frequency public exposure	Please see 'Planning Considerations' section of the report below. The applicant has provided a briefing note on 5G and health - It remains the opinion of ICNIRP, and other bodies such as the WHO, that there is no convincing evidence of adverse health effects at exposure below the guideline levels. It is the Governments view that if a proposed development meets ICNIRP guidelines for public exposure to electromagnetic fields, it should not be necessary for an authority, in processing an application, to consider health aspects and concerns further.

guidelines of the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection[1] as expressed in EU Council Recommendation 1999/519/EC of 12 July 1999 "on the limitation of exposure of the general public to electromagnetic fields (0 Hz to 300 GHz)".

1) This is the link to the ICNIRP Safety Guidelines which were published in 1998 and are now very out of date.
<https://www.icnirp.org/cms/upload/publications/ICNIRPemfgdl.pdf>

2) This is the link to the EU Council Recommendation which is also now very out of date.
https://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_determinants/environment/EMF/implement_rep_en.pdf

My comments are as follows. Both guidelines are very out of date.

The ICNIRP Guidelines specifically state on page three (including the cover page) that the guidelines DO NOT APPLY TO ANYONE WITH METAL in their body and states that: "These guidelines will be periodically revised and updated as advances are made in identifying the adverse health effects of time-varying electric, magnetic and electromagnetic fields" as per this paragraph from page 3 of the ICNIRP Guidelines.

Compliance with the present guidelines may not necessarily preclude interference with, or effects on, medical devices such as metallic prostheses, cardiac pacemakers and defibrillators, wearable diabetic devices (e.g.: subcutaneous glucose monitors and insulin pumps) and cochlear implants. Interference with pacemakers and other medical devices may occur at levels below the recommended reference levels. Advice on avoiding these problems is beyond the scope of the present document. Some advice is available elsewhere

(e.g.:UNEP/WHO/IRPA 1993), although this document is now 20 years out of date and may not be relevant to medical devices currently in use. These guidelines should be periodically revised and updated as advances are made in identifying the adverse health effects of time-varying electric, magnetic, and electromagnetic fields.

Many who live near the location of the mast will have pacemakers, hip replacements or other medical devices and these ICNIRP Safety Guidelines DO NOT APPLY to them. Where are the promised periodic revisions as advances are made in identifying adverse health effects? Have we not had any in a quarter of a century.

I plead with you to refuse this planning application on the grounds that its appearance and siting are FAR TOO DETRIMENTAL.

(You have been handed a gift horse which gives you a GET OUT OF JAIL FREE CARD because I do understand that you have been told that you are not allowed to officially and specifically question the HIGHLY QUESTIONABLE SAFETY GUIDELINES WHICH THE UK GOVERNMENT HAS ASKED YOU TO BLINDLY TRUST).

Please do the right thing. The mast is ugly and the siting is inappropriate.

7 Planning Considerations

7.1 Having regard to the relevant policies of the development plan it is considered that the main issues arising from this application are:

- (i) Principle of development
- (ii) Background
- (iii) Siting and appearance
- (iv) Impact upon residential amenity
- (v) Impact on highway and pedestrian safety

(i) Principle of development

7.2 The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order

2015 (as amended) established the principle of proposals of this nature provided that certain criteria would be met and subject to the local planning authority determining (a) whether Prior Approval is required for the siting and appearance of the proposal and, if so, (b) whether such Prior Approval should be granted or refused.

- 7.3 In this case, having reviewed the application, the local planning authority has determined that prior approval is required in this instance for (a) the siting and appearance of the proposed development.

(ii) Background

- 7.4 The importance of mobile technology in the UK and its contribution to the sustainability agenda is recognised by planning legislation and national policy and to facilitate the growth of new and existing telecommunications systems, and operators have obligations to meet customer demands for improved quality of service. Additionally, the National Planning Policy Framework places emphasis on encouraging the continued roll out of high speed digital infrastructure networks, of which the proposal would form a part.
- 7.5 An Electronic Communications Code consultation was published on 27 January 2021. The consultation outcome – ‘Access to land: consultation on changes to the Electronic Communications Code-government response’, was updated 24 November 2021.
- 7.6 The Ministerial foreword of Julia Lopez MP of this document, states, inter alia, the government is committed to delivering lightning-fast, reliable broadband to everyone in the United Kingdom and making the country a global leader in digital connectivity.
- 7.7 It further states that the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted how important it is to be connected - now more than ever – and having long-lasting gigabit capable connections in place will help to keep society functioning both now and in the future.
- 7.8 The Code of practice for wireless network development in England was published on 7 March 2022. The aim of the Code of Practice is to support the government’s objective of delivering high quality wireless infrastructure whilst balancing the needs with environmental considerations.
- 7.9 The new Product Security and Telecommunications Infrastructure Act 2022 received royal assent on 6 December 2022. At present (2023) only a limited number of provisions have come into force. The remainder of the Act, including key changes, are coming into force in accordance with regulations to be passed by the Secretary of State, which are yet to be made. The introduction of the Act followed lengthy consultations with stakeholders, and was intended to assist operators with the roll out of gigabit capable broadband and 5G networks across the UK to achieve the government’s commitment to improve connectivity.
- 7.10 The Government is also implementing the recommendations made in its Future Telecoms Infrastructure Review (FTIR) published in 2018 (last updated 8 June 2022).
- 7.11 The Statement of Strategic Priorities for Telecommunications, The Management of the Radio Spectrum, and Postal Services published in July 2019 (last updated 31 October 2019) followed the publication of the FTIR and reflected its conclusions.
- 7.12 Another relevant document is the Government’s publication in November 2020 of its National Infrastructure Strategy. This covers a whole spectrum of infrastructure in the

country. In the foreword of this document, among other things, the then Prime Minister comments that in a world likely to be working less from the office, its massive gigabit-capable broadband programme looks more important than ever.

- 7.13 In addition to the above, the Government also published a consultation on Changes to permitted development rights for electronic communications infrastructure (Published 20 April 2021) at how to implement the proposals consulted on in August 2019 to support the deployment of 5G and extend mobile coverage.
- 7.14 The Ministerial foreword commented that the case for 5G is compelling and that it will provide faster, more responsive and more reliable connections than ever before. Further, that the planning system plays a key role in delivering the infrastructure that is needed as households and businesses become increasingly reliant on mobile connectivity.
- 7.15 On 7th March 2022, the consultation outcome of the changes to permitted development rights for electronic communications infrastructure was published.
- 7.16 The Ministerial foreword of Julia Lopez MP of this document, states, inter alia, that bringing forward these important changes will ensure that the planning system supports the delivery of mobile infrastructure, as part of the government's mission that by 2030, the UK will have nationwide gigabit-capable broadband and 4G coverage, with 5G coverage for the majority of the population.
- 7.17 The Executive summary of the consultation outcome, comments that in considering the proposed reforms, the government has sought to ensure that it strikes an appropriate balance between providing local control over new development and delivering improved connectivity. In addition, it comments that while it is essential that communities and businesses have access to high-quality wireless connectivity, it recognises that it is important that the visual impacts of new network development are mitigated, and local amenity is protected as much as possible. It also comments that this is especially important in more sensitive locations such as National Parks, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Conservation Areas, and where development may impact designated heritage assets.
- 7.18 On 14th March 2022, secondary legislation was laid in Parliament to support the deployment of 5G and help extend mobile network coverage. Part 16 of the General Permitted Development Order 2015 (as amended) was amended and came into effect on 4th April 2022.
- 7.19 These amendments followed the announcements published in the government response to the 'Changes to permitted development rights for electronic communications infrastructure: technical consultation' (Monday 7th March) noted above. This set out that, following consultation responses from 3,000 people and organisations, the Government has decided to take forward most of the proposed reforms including changes to enable:
- the deployment of taller and wider masts;
 - building-based masts located nearer to highways; and
 - deployment of radio equipment housing required alongside new antennae.
- 7.20 Whilst a number of changes have been introduced within the permitted development Order as a consequence of the consultation outcome, the government has decided that it will not be taking forward the proposal to permit the deployment of monopole masts without the requirement for prior approval on unprotected land at this time.

- 7.21 Other material considerations are the Governments Emergency Services Networks: overview guidance that was updated on 23 January 2023.
- 7.22 This guidance comments that the Home Office is leading a cross-government programme to deliver the new Emergency Services Network (ESN) critical communications system. This will replace the current Airwave service used by the emergency services in Great Britain (England, Wales and Scotland) and transform how they operate.
- 7.23 It comments that ESN will enable fast, safe and secure voice, video and data across the 4G network and give first responders immediate access to life-saving data, images and information in live situations and emergencies on the front line.
- 7.24 In addition, it comments that while the technology that supports Airwave is reliable and fit for purpose, its limited capability means it cannot match the opportunities offered by newer critical communications mobile technology.
- 7.25 ESN's high-speed mobile technology will mean communication between the emergency services will take priority over other network traffic, even at peak times in busy urban locations. It will mean the emergency services and other first responders can share vital data, information and expertise quickly and securely from the frontline when it is needed most.
- 7.26 Users for ESN include the police, fire and rescue and ambulance services as well as other users stretching from local authorities and utility services to first responders like inshore rescue.
- 7.27 It further comments that there are 300,000 frontline emergency service users who will depend on ESN, using handheld devices or operating equipment in 45,000 vehicles, 66 aircraft and more than 100 control rooms.
- 7.28 On 13 December 2022, the Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport published a press release regarding research and development on next generation 5G and 6G wireless technology and telecoms security as part of a £110 million government investment. To ensure that the UK can realise the full economic and societal potential of 5G, the government is developing a Wireless Infrastructure Strategy, which will set out a strategic framework for boosting investment in and adoption of 5G. The Strategy will also set out the government's vision for 6G.

(iii) Impact upon the character and appearance of the area

- 7.29 In the additional information submitted with this application the developer has stated that the proposed siting of the telecommunications equipment would assimilate well within the streetscene. The applicant also states that the proposed site option is considered the best available compromise between extending 5G service across the target 'coverage hole' with the selected street works pole height and associated antenna and ground-based cabinets restricted to the minimum height which is capable of providing the required essential coverage.
- 7.30 The applicant has also carried out a site search which identified a number of possible locations, but these have been discounted for various reasons, including, proximity to housing, concerns surrounding visibility splays and unsuitable pavements and grass verges.

7.31 The proposed 15 metre high street pole and associated cabinets would be located on an area of grass verge adjacent to the Church of the Good Shepherd. The pole would be located forward of the church located close with a cluster of trees and lamp posts which offer some variations in height - there are also trees on the opposite side of Crookhorn Road. Although the pole would be located fairly close to the highway, this section of road is more enclosed than the previously proposed pole siting outside of the Centurion Pub which is more open, close to the junction with St Johns Avenue and therefore more prominent. Overall the siting is not considered to result in unacceptable harm to the wider character of the area. The balance between the need for the extended coverage has been taken into consideration.

(iv) Impact upon residential amenity

7.32 The local planning authority can only assess the proposed development solely on the basis of its siting and appearance, but also taking into account any representations received.

7.33 Therefore, the grounds for a local planning authority to refuse a prior notification application is limited only to the issues relating to the appearance and siting of the proposed mast.

7.34 The proposed mast and equipment would be sited relatively close to residential properties and would be clearly visible to some neighbouring properties whose outlook would be affected by the development.

7.35 However, Government guidance in the NPPF is clear that local planning authorities should not insist on minimum distances between new electronic communications development and existing development.

7.36 It is for the local planning authority, having regard to the Stewart Groups report and Government guidance, to determine what weight to attach to such considerations in any particular case.

7.37 It is the Governments view that if a proposed development meets ICNIRP guidelines for public exposure to electromagnetic fields, it should not be necessary for an authority, in processing an application, to consider health aspects and concerns further.

7.38 However, the prominent visual appearance of a mast within some sensitive locations, such as a predominantly residential area, may erode perceptions of the quality of the local environment and the well being of local residents, and this may form grounds of objection.

7.39 Furthermore, the GDPO states, inter alia, that when determining applications made under sub paragraph (4), the local planning authority must take into account any representations made to them as a result of consultations or notices. There have been no residential objections received in regards to impact on neighbour amenity from nearby residents.

(v) Impact on highway and pedestrian safety

7.40 The Highway Authority have been consulted and have not objected to this proposal.

8 Conclusion

- 8.1 It is acknowledged that the requirement for improvement connectivity with 4G and 5G is clearly compelling particularly having regard to recent events of the COVID-19 pandemic. This has seen a complete change in working practices in that home working had to develop in order to allow businesses to function and provide services.
- 8.2 The need for such infrastructure is even more compelling with the changes to how emergency services of all types will communicate in the future new Emergency Services Network (ESN) critical communications system. However, ESN can operate across the 4G network.
- 8.3 However, as recognised by the Government, there is a recognition that there needs to be a balance of the benefits of improved connectivity with local control and environmental protections.
- 8.4 The applicant has provided the necessary evidence to justify the proposed development and the National Planning Policy Framework recognises that planning decisions should support the expansion of electronic communications networks.
- 8.5 As such, it is considered that the proposed development will not result in any adverse impact on the character and appearance of the area and is considered acceptable.

9 **RECOMMENDATION:**

That Prior Approval is required for the siting and appearance of the development and that the Head of Place be authorised to **GRANT PRIOR APPROVAL** for application APP/23/00346

Subject to the following conditions

- 1 The development must be begun not later than five years beginning with the date of this permission.
Reason: To comply with the requirements of Section 91 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as amended by Section 51 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.
- 2 The development hereby permitted shall be carried out in accordance with the following approved plans:

002 Site Location Plan Drawing No.
HVT21858_HVT059_86292_PO0920_GA_Rev_A Issue A
215 Proposed Site Plan Drawing No.
HVT21858_HVT059_86292_PO0920_GA_REV_A Issue A
265 Proposed Site Elevation Drawing No.
HVT21858_HVT059_86292_PO0920_GA_REV_A Rev A
Site Specific Supplementary Information and Planning Justification Statement
- DOT Surveying Site Ref No. HVT21858 uploaded 13 Jul 2023

Declaration of Conformity with International Commission on Non-Ionizing
Radiation Protection Public Exposure Guidelines dated 20.06.23

Reason: - To ensure provision of a satisfactory development.