

Environmental Health Manager, Community Group - No objection
Development Engineer - Highways - No objection
Department of Trade and Industry - No comment

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: 15

Number of site notices: 1

Statutory advertisement: Not applicable.

Number of representations received: 0

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) Impact upon the streetscene
- (iii) Impact upon residential amenity
- (iv) Health Implications

(i) Principle of development

The application seeks to replace an existing telecommunications facility as part of an upgrade. The replacement mast would be shared by Vodafone and Telefonica.

Local and national plan policy encourages the re-use and sharing of existing telecommunications infrastructure so as to reduce excessive numbers of telecommunications masts. The proposal would therefore be acceptable in principle.

(ii) Impact upon the streetscene

Planning permission is sought for a replacement telecommunications mast. The existing mast is 17.3m in height, as is the proposed replacement mast. Whilst it is noted that the new mast would be bulkier, with 3 additional dish antennas, the proposal would largely be reflective of the existing facility.

Having regard to the fact that the mast is positioned to the rear of the two storey retail and residential development along Elm Grove and would replace an existing facility similar in scale it is considered that the character and appearance of the area would be largely retained.

(iii) Impact upon residential amenity

The positioning and scale of the mast would not be significantly greater than the existing facility and not to a point that would result in additional harm to neighbour

amenity.

(iv) Health Implications

Paragraph 45 of the National Planning Policy Framework is explicit in setting out the necessary evidence required in support of planning applications for telecommunications development, in order to justify the proposal. This should include: The outcome of consultations with organisations with an interest in the proposed development; A statement that self certifies that exposure, when operational, will not exceed International Commission on Non-Ionising Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) guidelines, and evidence that the applicant has explored the possibility of erecting antennae on an existing building, mast or other structure.

Paragraph 46 of the NPPF goes on to say:

"Local planning authorities must determine applications on planning grounds. They should not seek to prevent competition between different operators, question the need for the telecommunications system or determine health safeguards if the proposal meets International Commission guidelines for public exposure."

An ICNIRP certificate has been included with the current application and would see the replacement of an existing facility, which would then be shared. The development therefore accords with the above policy requirements and would not result in an increased health risk.

8 Conclusion

The development would see the replacement of an existing telecommunications mast, comparable in scale to that existing. Further, the upgraded mast would be shared by two telecommunications providers.

Having regard to the existing site characteristics and that the development is for a replacement mast and has been accompanied by an ICNIRP certificate it is recommended that planning permission be granted.

9 **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Executive Head of Planning and Built Environment be authorised to **GRANT PERMISSION** for application APP/15/00756

(A) subject to the following conditions

- 1 The development hereby permitted shall be begun before the expiration of 3 years from the date on which this planning permission was granted.
Reason: To comply with 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:

Drawing No. 100 Issue B

Drawing No. 201 Issue B
Drawing No. 301 Issue B
Supplementary Information Form and Supporting Statement July 2015

Reason: - To ensure provision of a satisfactory development.