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5<sup>th</sup> December 2006

Your Ref: DCSE2006/2170/F

Our Ref: RP/63373

Mr S. Holder  
Planning Services  
County of Herefordshire District Council  
PO Box 230  
Blueschool House  
Blueschool Street  
Hereford, HR1 2ZB

Dear Mr Holder

**PROPOSED TELECOMMUNICATIONS INSTALLATION ON BEHALF OF T-MOBILE UK LIMITED CONSISTING OF A 22.5m LATTICE TOWER, TWO ANTENNA, ONE DISH AND GROUND BASED CABINETS WITHIN A FENCED COMPOUND ON LAND AT QUEENS TUNNEL, SWAGWATER LANE, GORSLEY, ROSS-ON-WYE, HR9 7SL**

I refer to our telephone conversation on 30<sup>th</sup> November in relation to the above site.

Following the committee meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> November some councilors have suggested that a tree mast may be a better alternative design in this location and have asked if this is a possibility.

I have been in discussion with the Construction Engineer about this and also have my own comments to make.

**Construction**

If a tree mast is used then it would need to be of a 24.5m height (Compared to the lower 22.5m lattice). This is in order so as to obtain the same antenna bearings that we can have on a slim lattice and also the antenna can not be fixed at the top of a tree mast. Thus the tree mast will have to be taller than the proposed lattice mast. Thus a tree mast will be about 2m above the height of the proposed lattice.

A proposed tree mast will involve building over a larger ground area as the foundation base will need to be larger. This will inevitable mean the loss of some of the surrounding trees as well as less space for additional landscape planting around the compound. (A tree mast still has a fenced compound).

A tree mast is wider than a lattice mast due to the width of the fake branches. A wider area of branch clearing of the real trees around will need to take place in order to erect the tree mast.

**Visual**

The only tree mast design available at this height is a 'cypress tree' design and thus is a conifer in appearance. Located in this belt of deciduous trees, it will thus stand out more than the lattice tower, and so will be far more noticeable to the general public whether walking or driving.

As the tree mast is much wider with a larger foundation base, more of the natural tree cover will need to be cut back. This will open up the site, making the tree mast more apparent in the landscape.

The tree mast, due to its solid structure, has no permeability such as the lattice tower. Therefore it will stand out much more than compared to the 'see-through' metalwork of the lattice.

A lattice tower located close to trees is considered the best design to use in such circumstances. The lattice tower design of the mast has been selected because in this location within a tree belt, it is considered to be the least environmentally obtrusive type of telecommunications mast. There will be no bulky headframe and the lattice design will be in sympathy with the surrounding trees because it allows some permeability through it and so merging in with the branches and twigs of the trees. My client is willing to paint the tower and equipment in a colour to be agreed with the LPA. Perhaps a dark brown will be best. I have attached some photos of lattice masts located close to trees which demonstrate how well such structures merge in with the background of trunks, branches and twigs, making them hard to distinguish against such a backdrop. Indeed the more trees around them, the better they are screened and merge with such background.

**Conclusion**

I hope the above information clarifies the situation and shows that the proposed lattice tower design is far superior to that of a tree mast in this locality and particular instance and will have the least visual impact and allow for sufficient space around it to include some landscaping to take place.

I hope the Councillors are able to approve the application at the next committee on 20<sup>th</sup> December 2006.

Yours sincerely

Richard Palmer MRTPI  
Senior Planner for AWA Ltd  
On behalf of T Mobile UK Ltd

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