

DCSE2004/1829/F - INSTALLATION OF 3 ADDITIONAL ANTENNAS ON THE EXISTING TOWER FOR VODAFONE. NTL TRANSMITTING STATION, LARRUPERZ COMMUNITY CENTRE, OFF STATION ROAD, ROSS ON WYE, HEREFORDSHIRE

For: NTL per M Smith, Site Solutions, Crawley Court, Winchester, Hampshire, SO21 2QA

Date Received: 19th May 2004 Ward: Ross-on-Wye East Grid Ref: 60529, 24306
Expiry Date: 14th July 2004

Local Members: Councillor Mrs. A. E. Gray and Councillor Mrs. C. J. Davies

1. Site Description and Proposal

- 1.1 This telecommunications mast is situated within the grounds of the Larruperz Community Centre and is about 10 m from the north-east corner of the building. The triangular lattice tower is 20 m high with 3 antennas between 13 m and 15.4 m. Planning permission has been granted for 4 further antennas (Orange) but these have not been installed. It is now proposed to install 3 additional antennas at the same height and bearing as those existing. These would be UMTS antennas which facilitate Third Generation (3G) services.
- 1.2 A public footpath adjoins the north side of the transmitting station with the Ashburton Industrial Estate to the north of that. To the east is Ryefield Road and to the west of the Larruperz Centre are houses. A row of tall conifers and several mature trees including two pines grow close to the station.

2. Policies

2.1 Planning Policy Guidance

PPG8 Telecommunications

2.2 Hereford and Worcester County Structure Plan

Policy CTC1 Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty

2.3 South Herefordshire District Local Plan

Policy C2 Settlement Boundaries
Policy C41 Telecommunications Development
Policy C42 Criteria to Guide Telecommunication Development

2.4 Herefordshire Unitary Development Plan (Revised Deposit Draft)

Policy CF3 Telecommunications

3. Planning History

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|-----|---------------|--|---|--------------------|
| 3.2 | SE2001/0218/F | 3 dual polar antennae, 1 dish antennae, 1 cabin and security fence | - | Permitted 21.03.00 |
| | SE2001/2987/F | 4 antennae and associated equipment cabinet | - | Permitted 09.01.02 |

4. Consultation Summary

Statutory Consultations

- 4.1 No statutory or non-statutory consultations required.
- 4.2 Head of Engineering and Transportation has no objections to the grant of permission.

Internal Council Advice

5. Representations

- 5.1 The agent for the applicant (ntl) points out that:

- (1) The site owners are actively promoting sharing of their sites throughout the UK. This accords with advice in PPG8 that existing masts should be used where possible to safeguard the amenities and character of an area in preventing mast proliferation in the rural and built environment.
- (2) Vodafone already use this mast for 2G services to Ross on Wye and this proposal is to install 3 additional UMTS antennas. These are designed to be mounted in a compact, slim-line fashion which will minimise visual intrusion and have been kept to the minimum that will suit Vodafone's technical requirements.
- (3) A declaration of conformity with the International Commission on Non-Ionising Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) guidelines for public exposure. Regular surveys continue to show that emissions from ntl sites are a small fraction of ICNIRP guidelines
- (4) A letter from Ross on Wye and District Community Association is included stating that they have no objections to the work proceeding.

- 5.2 Two letters of objection has been received from local residents which state that:

- (1) The tower was originally 'sold' to this area on the grounds that it would improve TV reception - or so we were told. Subsequent to the original installation additional antenna and equipment has been installed, though I do not recall any planning application for these extensions.
- (2) The mast and antennae are now extremely obtrusive, a terrible eyesore and are opposite objectors garden and house, where they impede the view. Object to any further additions and believe that another site - perhaps near the Cattle Market area would be more appropriate.

- (3) Very concerned about additional radio frequency emissions to which objector's family in particular will be exposed as house is immediately opposite the tower.

The full text of these letters can be inspected at Southern Planning Services, Blueschool House, Blueschool Street, Hereford and prior to the Sub-Committee meeting.

6. Officers Appraisal

- 6.1 The lattice mast would not be increased in height nor enlarged in base area by this proposal. The extra antennas would be at the same height and point in the same direction as existing antennae. This would inevitably make these attachments appear more solid and bulky and consequently more prominent. Nevertheless it is national and local policy to encourage mast sharing to avoid completely new masts being erected. The visual impact of the mast is significantly lessened by existing trees from the north and west. Tall buildings (Larrupez and Ryefield Centres also screen the mast from nearby houses to the west. It is visible however from some houses at the northern end of Ryefield Road. These houses are about 50m away. Whilst outlook from these properties would be affected it is not considered that this would be so serious as to justify refusing this application. In this sensitive location alternative sites are not readily available and it is considered that no less intrusive site is available.
- 6.2 The applicants have carried out the necessary calculation and has confirmed that the emissions are well within the internationally accepted standard. There is no reason to conclude therefore that the proposal would harm the health of local residents.

RECOMMENDATION

That planning permission be granted subject to the following condition:

- 1 A01 (Time limit for commencement (full permission))**

Reason: Required to be imposed by Section 91 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

Informative:

- 1 - N15 - Reason(s) for the Grant of Planning Permission**

Decision:

Notes:

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Background Papers

Internal departmental consultation replies.