

PLANNING DEVELOPMENT CONTROL (TELECOMMUNICATIONS) SUB-COMMITTEE**7 January 2005****Attendance:****Councillors:****Bennetts (Chairman) (P)****Baxter (P)
Beveridge (P)
Davies (P)****Mitchell (P)
Pearson (P)
Read (P)
Saunders (P)****Officers in attendance:****Mrs J Pinnock (Senior Planning Officer)
Mr S Dunbar-Dempsey (Open Space Project Officer)**

1. REPLACEMENT OF EXISTING 8 METRE MONOPOLE SUPPORTING 6NO ANTENNAE AT LAND ADJACENT TO OTTERBOURNE ROAD, COMPTON, WINCHESTER

The Sub-Committee met at the application site at land adjacent to Otterbourne Road, Compton, Winchester.

The Chairman welcomed to the meeting Mr Henderson (representing the applicant's agent, Turner and Partners) and Mr Higgins (representing the applicant O2 (UK)).

The application site was located on the southern side of Otterbourne Road bordered by a mature bank of trees that provided a backdrop to the masts. The southern border of the site was adjacent to Junction 11 slip road from the M3 motorway. A demonstration mast had been raised to the full height of the proposals (15m) next to the existing mast to be replaced.

Mrs Pinnock explained that the prior notification application was to replace one of the two existing 8m masts with a monopole with a total height, inclusive of the six antenna, of 15m. The application also sought permission for an additional cabinet measuring 1.70m x 0.75m x 1.40m high. Mrs Pinnock confirmed that as the application was for a replacement mast, no alternative sites had been pursued by the applicant. Mrs Pinnock advised that the proposals were required to complete third generation mobile telecommunication coverage along the M3 motorway and the mainline railway.

The Sub-Committee noted that the existing masts were visible from the east from St Catherine's Hill and north and south along the M3 motorway. In response to a question, it was confirmed that the tree line was approximately 15m in height and that therefore the proposed increase in height of the mast would not therefore be substantially above this.

Mrs Pinnock reported that the application was in accordance with national and local planning policies and that the applicant had submitted certification of ICNIRP compliance.

Mrs Pinnock advised that no representations had been received from Compton and Shawford Parish Council or local residents. However, the Ramblers Association had objected and stated that the increase in size would be excessively visually intrusive. They suggested that the mast should be relocated to the verges of either the M3 motorway or the railway, or further to the south west of Winchester at Crabwood reservoir.

At the conclusion of her presentation, Mrs Pinnock stated that officers considered that the extra height proposed would not be excessively visually intrusive and therefore recommended that that application be approved. Members were reminded that as this was a prior approval notification, officers would be able to negotiate with the applicant the colour that the equipment could be painted.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr Higgins and Mr Henderson answered a number of Members' questions. It was confirmed that the width of the column of the structure was to remain the same. It was also confirmed that there would not be a need for a temporary structure during construction as any break in signal would be minimal. A Member requested that as the trees between Otterbourne Road and the masts were utilised by colonies of Rooks, construction should be avoided around their nesting time in March. Mr Henderson advised that construction would be unlikely to occur at this time and advised that the applicant would be pleased to note this information.

Mr Dunbar-Dempsey recommended to the Sub-Committee suitable colouring of the equipment, taking into account their positioning against the tree line and the views towards the site. He advised that the existing colouration was 'holly green' and was less successful as it would be illuminated by the rising sun. He suggested that the mast's colour against the tree line would ideally be as dark as possible. He recommended a dark brown/green colour from the approved standard colour chart called 'Van-Dyke brown' (Reference BS 4800 - 10 B 29 on the British Standard Colour Chart). The Sub-Committee agreed to this.

In conclusion, Members agreed to support the prior approval notification, as it was unlikely to have additional impact on the visual amenity of the area. Members requested that the applicant be requested to ensure that the structure, antennae and existing cabinets be painted in a suitable colour namely 'Van-Dyke Brown'. The applicant was also requested to have regard to the comments raised regarding the nesting season of the nearby colony of Rooks. It was also noted that the ICNIRP compliance certification was unsigned and that this should be addressed and forwarded to the officers as soon as possible.

RESOLVED:

1. That prior approval of the details of the siting and appearance regarding the above application be agreed.
2. That the Director of Development Services negotiates with the applicant the painting of the mast and equipment in an appropriate colour (ideally 'Van-Dyke Brown').

The meeting commenced at 9.40am and concluded at 10.10am.

Chairman