

PLANNING DEVELOPMENT CONTROL (TELECOMMUNICATIONS) SUB-COMMITTEE**9 May 2005**Attendance:

Councillors:

Bennetts (Chairman) (P)

Baxter (P)
Davies (P)
Pearson (P)Read (P)
Sutton(P)Others in Attendance who addressed the meeting:

Councillor Cook

Officers in attendance:

Miss L Hutchings (Principal Planning Officer)

1. ERECTION OF 300 MM MICROWAVE DISH MOUNTED ON TRIPOD ON ROOF (RETROSPECTIVE) – BT EXCHANGE BUILDING, STATION ROAD, ALRESFORD.

The Sub-Committee met close to the application site at Station Road, Alresford.

The Chairman welcomed to the meeting Mr Lynes representing the applicant, British Telecommunications plc. Also present was a local resident, Mrs Sheppard.

Miss Hutchings explained that a full planning application (retrospective) had been received from British Telecommunications plc for the erection of a 300 mm microwave dish mounted on a tripod on the roof of the Exchange Building, Station Road, Alresford. The equipment was located on the northern corner of a flat roof of the 2 storey building.

The Sub-Committee observed the structure in situ and noted that it was mainly visible through the entrance gates to Alresford Telephone Exchange from Station Road. However, views were limited as the site was set well back and the equipment was relatively small above the building. The dish was oriented at 144 degrees and mounted on a 2.25m high metal tripod. The surrounding area was a mixture of uses including residential, commercial, community facilities, a police station, a sub station and church with the railway station at the end of the busy road.

Miss Hutchings advised that the retrospective full application was only required as the site was within the Alresford Conservation Area. It was confirmed that the Conservation Officer had made no objection to the proposal, although recommended any ensuing consent be on condition that the tripod and dish are painted matt black.

Regarding representations received, Miss Hutchings explained that New Alresford Parish Council had no comments. However in view of comments expressed by mothers of young children the Parish Council had requested that there be further

investigation as to whether there were any possible harmful effects from emissions. A further letter had been received from a local resident suggesting that as this was a retrospective application, the equipment in situ should have been removed before determination. Miss Hutchings also advised that officers had recently received a 40signature petition objecting to the structure, although no grounds for objecting were given.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr Lynes responded to a number of questions from Members. He explained that 2 electronic components beneath the dish were required to transform radio signals from the dish antennae to electric signals to be carried to the exchange. Miss Hutchings clarified that the application solely related to the dish and that the components did not require planning consent.

Following further discussion, Mr Lynes confirmed that in addition to the dish and tripod being painted an appropriate colour, the components, which for technical reasons could not be painted, could be removed to the interior of the exchange building. It was clarified that the dish was required to complete a fixed radio link to a mast in the Bishops Sutton area at Western Court Farm to complete network coverage to the area.

At the invitation of the Chairman, a local resident Mrs Sheppard addressed the Sub-Committee. She expressed concern as to the possible health risks associated with telecommunication equipment.

Councillor Cook (a Ward Member for The Alresfords) addressed the Sub-Committee. Councillor Cook reiterated the concern of some local residents of possible health risks associated with telecommunication equipment.

Although acknowledging the concerns of some local residents, the Sub-Committee noted that although health considerations and the public perception of risk could be taken into account, they were satisfied that due to the provision of appropriate ICNIRP certification and that the beam was not orientated towards any schools, this consideration could not be afforded much weight in comparison to the other material issues. The Sub-Committee was therefore obliged to determine the application with regards to its siting and appearance and impact on the Conservation Area.

Members therefore agreed to support the application as the equipment would not result in any materially harmful impacts on the character of the Conservation Area in accordance with policy. However, it was requested that in addition to the dish and tripod being painted an appropriate colour (matt black), that the 2 electrical components beneath the dish be removed to the interior of the building.

RESOLVED:

That planning permission be granted subject to the following conditions:

01 In the event that the development hereby approved becomes redundant or otherwise not required for the purpose permitted, the mast and all associated equipment and enclosures shall be dismantled and permanently removed from the site, which shall be restored to its former condition.

01 Reason: In the interests of visual amenity.

02 The electrical components attached to the tripod sited below the 300mm dish antenna hereby approved shall be removed and relocated within

the main building of the site, within three months from the date of this permission, unless otherwise agreed in writing by the local planning authority.

02 Reason: In the interests of the visual amenities of the Conservation Area.

03 The antenna, tripod and any other external equipment located on the structure hereby approved, shall be painted matt black within three months of the date of this permission, and thereafter retained that colour, unless otherwise agreed in writing by the local planning authority.

03 Reason: In the interests of the amenities of the Conservation Area.

Informatives

01. This permission is granted for the following reasons:

The development is in accordance with the Policies and Proposals of the Development Plan set out below, and other material considerations do not have sufficient weight to justify a refusal of the application. In accordance with Section 38(6) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, planning permission should therefore be granted.

02. The Local Planning Authority has taken account of the following development plan policies and proposals:-

Hampshire County Structure Plan Review:UB3, TC1.

Winchester District Local Plan Proposals: EN5, FS4, HG6, HG7.

Emerging Development Plan- WDLP Review Deposit and Revised Deposit: DP3, DP17, HE4, HE5.

The meeting commenced at 9.35am and concluded at 10.15am.

Chairman