

**Item D. 8**                      **06/00566/TEL**                      **Prior App not reqd - Telecom**

**Case Officer**                      **Mr Alistair Gemmell**

**Ward**                      **Clayton-le-Woods And Whittle-le-Woods**

**Proposal**                      **Telecommunications Installation Comprising 14.7m High  
monopole Supporting 3 No Antennas, 1 Dish with  
Development Ancillary**

**Location**                      **Shaw Hill Bridge Preston Road Whittle-Le-Woods**

**Applicant**                      **T Mobile Uk Ltd**

**Proposal**                      This prior notification application proposes the installation of a 14.7 metre high monopole supporting 3 antennas and 1 dish with ancillary development. The three antenna are contained within a shroud 320mm wide with a small dish, 300 mm in diameter fixed below this at the top of the structure. At the base of the monopole are two cabinets, one measuring 500 x 600 x 1235 high, the other 900 x 800 x 1240 mm high. This ancillary development would be located immediately south of the monopole. All equipment is grey in colour.

The installation would be located approximately 95 metres north of the junction of Dawson Lane and Preston Road (A6) and approximately 115 metres south of the junction of School Brow with Preston Road. The proposed development would be sited on the pavement on the west side of Preston Road, approximately 1.6 metres in from the kerb.

In October 2005 it was determined that prior approval was not required for the same development 15 metres to the north. It is now necessary to resite this installation due to a redundant pipe the Highways Agency have advised is soon to come back into use for drainage purposes. The installation is required to enable T-Mobile to provide/improve the 3G digital telephone network in the area.

**Planning Policy**                      PPG8 (Telecommunications) states that Government Policy is to facilitate the growth of new and existing telecommunication systems. Where possible it encourages the mounting of antenna on existing buildings and mast sharing. It indicates operators should look carefully at materials, colours and design, to minimise obtrusiveness.

Policy PS12 of the Adopted Chorley Borough Local Plan Review states that the Council will only permit utility services where there are no overriding environmental objections to either the siting or appearance of the installation and when all of the following criteria have been met:

- (a) Development is part of a planned expansion;
- (b) No operational suitable sites elsewhere with less environmental impact;
- (c) No reasonable possibility of sharing existing facilities;

- (d) No reasonable possibility of erecting antennae on an existing building or structure;
- (e) The visual impact of the development on the landscape has been minimised, subject to technical limitation.

**Planning History** As noted above, it was determined that prior approval was not required for the same development 15 metres to the north (application 05/00897/TEL). Approximately 55 metres to the south of the site subject to this application a 12m high installation has been erected by Vodaphone following the determination that prior approval was not required in May 2005.

**Consultations** At the time of the previous application The Council's Highways department advised the development would not have any adverse effect on highway safety or traffic therefore did not object to the proposal.

**Representations** The consultation period runs until 27 June 2006 and to date just one letter of representation has been received. The letter opposes the installation on the grounds that the mast would look unsightly and would be of detriment to the rural view and value of the objector's property. Health and safety concerns are also raised.

The previous application received twenty letters of objection from local resident and one letter of objection from Cllr Perks. In summary, the following issues were raised:

- The monopole is a physically unattractive structure, with a detrimental impact upon the landscape and property values;
- The monopole would impact upon the health of all residents and children nearby and is in close proximity to a doctor's surgery and a school;
- Too little is know on the potential health implications these masts may/may not create and as countries such as Holland, Australia, New Zealand and America take health issues seriously, the UK should mirror this approach:
- There are already more than enough telecommunication masts in the area;
- The development will have a detrimental impact on highway safety due to the reduction in size of the footway:
- Telecommunication masts should be sited away from residential areas:
- Mobile phone reception in the area is good enough without the need for more masts.

**Assessment** The main issues to consider in determining this type of application are the siting and appearance of the proposed development.

With reference to the concerns of the local residents and councillors about possible health implications, the proposed development meets the ICNIRP guidelines and therefore in line with Policy PPG8, it is not necessary to consider further health aspects and concerns as part of processing this application. The operator enclosed an ICNIRP Certificate 'Declaration of conformity with ICNIRP public exposure guidelines' signed with the application.

With regard to Policy PS12 it is accepted that the proposed development would be part of a planned expansion. The applicant has submitted information to support compliance with criteria (b) – (d) in that it is argued no other sites are considered more suitable. The applicant has enclosed information on other sites considered prior to the application being submitted.

In terms of siting and visual impact, street lamps, telegraph poles and road signs are all urban features around the application site. The proposed development would be sited against the backdrop of existing mature trees, which would both offer an element of screening and lessen the impact of the installation. The lampposts around the site are 10 metres in height and the trees measure between 8 and 11 metres in height. In terms of design, the monopole is a slim-line structure designed without additional bulk in order to reduce visual intrusion. The proposed monopole and ancillary development will essentially be viewed as additional street furniture within the streetscene; in addition to the existing street lamps. It is considered that the proposed development would not be visually intrusive and would not stand out as an alien feature in the surrounding landscape. It is considered that the siting and design of the proposed development is acceptable.

The nearest neighbouring property is situated approximately 50 metres from the application site. This distance is considered to be sufficient enough to ensure that the proposal would not cause a significantly detrimental outlook or form an unduly obtrusive feature from the property. In addition there is 8-11 metres of mature vegetation screening the property from the application site.

**Recommendation: Prior App not reqd - Telecom**

---