

From: planningcomments@staffs Moorlands.gov.uk
To: [Planning Comments \(SMDC\)](#)
Subject: Comment Received from Public Access
Date: 26 May 2021 17:14:22

Application Reference No. : DET/2021/0021
Site Address: Uttoxeter Road Alton Staffordshire
Comments by: Viv McMillan

From:

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Hillrise
Stoke on Trent
Alton
Staffordshire
ST10 4BA

Phone:

Email:

Submission: Objection

Comments: Further comments on this application by H3G LTE/Hutchinson UK Limited

1. The site selection process has also been influenced by the numerous vertical elements of street furniture distributed around the vicinity of the site including street lighting columns; [Page 3 of SSSI, paragraph 4]

To what numerous vertical elements does SMDC believe the agent is referring to? There is very little street furniture in the vicinity of the site. There is no street furniture on the same side of the street as the proposed monopole other than a 3m high road sign warning of a bend. Opposite the proposed site, there is one lighting column (approx 5-6m tall) and one telegraph pole (approx 9m tall). The nearest residential buildings are only 4m high (bungalows in Hill Rise). The houses opposite are small two storey houses and are approximately 5.5m high. 20m from the proposed site stands an old oak tree the applicant claims it is approximately 18m high although it is difficult for me to ascertain if that is accurate. But a tree is not street furniture and is no reason to select the proposed site adjacent to it.

Please advise how the council considers the applicant's assertion that these vertical elements influenced the site selection process; if this were the case, the site would not have been chosen. I suggest to the council that the agent and / or the applicant is misleading the council.

2. Wide grassed verge situated outside the Conservation Area and as far away as technically possible from the views of residential properties given the constraints of the cell search area. [Page 3 of SSSI last paragraph]

The site is not very far away from views of residential properties at all. The monopole would be in full view of all the 6 dwellings on the Uttoxeter Road opposite the site. And the gardens of the bungalows in Hill Rise (no. 2 and no. 4) would be overlooked and overshadowed by the monopole. Further the monopole would be visible from inside the those bungalows and by other houses on that street as the pole exceeds the roof height of no. 2 and no. 4 by some 14m.

The pole could be sited some 60m away in the car park of the village hall which would render it not easily or readily visible to any residents at all. Given that alternative location please advise how the council considers this to be as far away as technically possible from the views of the residential properties.

3. The proposed works are not to the visual detriment of the surrounding area (being suitably distant from sensitive receptors). The proposal would not result in demonstrable harm to the character of the immediate or wider area; but are vitally necessary to ensure improved delivery of service. [Page 5 of SSSI Paragraph 1]

The proposal would respect and continue to maintain the character of the area, would be suitably distant from potentially sensitive users, and so would accord with the principles of the Development Plan policies. [Page 5 of SSSI Paragraph 1]

The visual detriment is easy to see, the District Cllr for the area (Cllr Hayley Plimley) has already objected and commented that the site is totally inappropriate due to the detrimental impact on both the residents and the village vernacular. When such a structure could be hidden from view, it begs the question why it has to be sited in full view of approaching traffic, visitors and most alarmingly, of residents living immediately adjacent to it. Please can you explain how this is in keeping with the council's planning policy. The objection is not to having the monopole at all, only to it being located at the chosen proposed site. The proposal does not respect the character of the area and will most definitely be detrimental to such.

4. In keeping with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). guidelines of using: high quality communications (Section 10), the proposed design has been selected to minimise visual impact upon the street scene by integrating with the existing built environment. [Page 5 of SSSI Paragraph 4]

The visual impact would be minimised to a much greater extent if the location at the village hall just 60m away were to be used instead. The street scene has no tall buildings so it is my view that the visual impact of an 18m monopole will not integrate in any way with the existing built environment.

Please advise how you consider the applicants statement regarding this to be true and accurate. How and with what does an 18m monopole integrate?

5. The design of the proposed equipment is considered to be the least visually intrusive option available. Although it is accepted that there will be an intensification in the amount of equipment (an additional monopole and associated cabinets in the area) it is felt that such a minor increase would not detract from the character in which the proposal sits. [Page 5 of SSSI Paragraph 5]

The character of the entrance to a country village with low-rise buildings, open countryside and trees, does not currently nor should it include telecoms equipment.

Please advise how the council considers the applicants claim that the addition of an 18m monopole and associated cabinets will not detract from the character of the site, a green verge and footpath on the entrance to a country village.

6. In keeping with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF July 2018). guidelines of using high quality communications infrastructure the proposed design has been selected to minimise visual impact upon the street scene by integrating with the existing street furniture, having similar vertical lines and overall appearance to the numerous street lighting columns in this area. [Page 7 of SSSI Paragraph 2]

The nearest telegraph pole is half the height (9m) and the nearest street lamp is 5-6m tall - both of which are on the opposite side of the road and largely shrouded by trees. The next nearest telegraph poles are 54m and 109m away from the site heading away from the village. The next nearest lighting column is 73 metres away from the site heading out of the village.

Please advise how an 18m monopole has similar vertical lines to telegraph poles and street lights less than half its height and how it would have a similar overall appearance.

7. The site is required to provide new 5G coverage for H3G LTE in order to improve coverage in the Alton

area of Staffordshire Moorlands. The cell search areas for 5G are extremely constrained with a typical cell radius of approximately 50m meaning that it would not be feasible to site the column outside of this locale. [Page 7 of SSSI -section 5 ; last paragraph]

8. The cell search area is illustrated below and is extremely constrained. The only viable option has been put forward. As with all 5G cells this is an extremely constrained cell search area. Options are extremely limited and the only viable solution that minimises amenity issues has been put forward. The proposed site is located in a densely packed residential area. The DSA (Designated Search Area) covers this densely packed residential area. There is no scope to pull the mast outside of this area and give the cell 5G coverage. [Page 8 of SSSI paragraph 4]

As mentioned above, there is a perfectly feasible location at 60m from the proposed site in the car park of the village hall. Both power and BT services are available at the village hall and therefore would be equally accessible in the car park.

Please advise why this site was not considered or if it were considered why it was not selected.

9. [Page 8 ; Discounted Options]

The applicant has not been clear about whether it considered the village hall car park and it seems from the map on which is difficult to locate the various ;D; locations it did not.

It is my opinion that power being 150m away from the site is not a reason to mark the site as unfeasible.

Please advise your view.

10. We have considered the detailed siting and design carefully to ensure that the scheme has a limited impact on the locality and general visual amenity. Visual appearance. We would repeat that we have carefully placed and designed the scheme to ensure the principles of good siting and appearance are adhered to. The overall impact of the installation on the environment is limited. [Page 10 Paragraph 1]

Please advise how you consider the applicant's claims to not be impacting negatively on the locality and general visual amenity, or claims that the overall impact on the local environment to be limited.

11. Where new sites are required (such as for new 5G networks, or for connected transport and smart city applications), equipment should be sympathetically designed and camouflaged where appropriate.;

There has been no mention of camouflage. The equipment itself is not the issue. It is the proposed location that is out of keeping with the visual ethics.

Please advise and provide links to the Council's planning policy that would permit such an installation at this location.

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