

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 April 2026 10:33
To: Planning Comments (SMDC)
Subject: Planning Application SMD/2025/0380

Planning Application Number SMD/2025/0380
Applicant Name Mr L Leigh
Land Adjacent to High View, Sutherland Road, Longsdon ST9 9QD

Dear Sir/Madam

Objection: Utility Poles – Proposed Repositioning Within New Access

I wish to submit an objection regarding the statement within the application that:

“The existing utility poles sited within the new access are to be repositioned by the utility providers to a scheme to be agreed with them so as not to disrupt services to the application site and adjacent properties. The new pole positions are to be outside of the proposed visibility sight lines so as not to impair view when exiting the site.”

My concerns are as follows:

1. Lack of a Defined Relocation Plan

The application provides no confirmed relocation scheme, no drawings, and no agreed positions for the utility poles. Leaving this to be determined *after* approval creates significant uncertainty for neighbouring residents. The final pole locations could materially affect access, visibility, and the character of the area, yet the public is being asked to comment without this essential information.

2. Potential Impact on Highway Safety

The statement asserts that the poles will be placed “outside of the proposed visibility sight lines”, but without a detailed plan, there is no way to verify this. Any misplacement of poles—even marginal—could obstruct sight lines for vehicles exiting the site or neighbouring driveways, increasing the risk of accidents on what is already a constrained access point.

3. Risk of Obstruction to Adjacent Properties

The relocation of poles may result in them being sited closer to neighbouring boundaries, driveways, or gardens. This could:

- restrict access for residents
- impede visibility when entering or leaving private drives
- introduce new visual or physical obstructions
- Create maintenance issues for both residents and utility providers

These impacts have not been assessed or addressed.

4. Insufficient Consideration of Service Disruption

The statement claims that services “will not be disrupted”, yet no evidence is provided. Repositioning poles often requires temporary disconnection or rerouting of services. Without a clear plan, residents cannot be assured that essential utilities—electricity, telecommunications, broadband—will be protected.

5. Failure to Provide Information Required for Meaningful Consultation

A planning application should include all material details necessary for the public to understand the full implications of the proposal. The omission of confirmed pole locations means the application is incomplete. Approving it without this information would undermine the transparency and fairness of the consultation process.

Conclusion

Until a detailed, fully dimensioned plan is submitted showing the exact proposed locations of the utility poles, along with a safety assessment and confirmation from the relevant utility providers, I respectfully request that this element of the application is not approved.

The relocation of utility poles is not a minor technicality; it has direct implications for safety, access, amenity, and service continuity for existing residents. These matters must be fully resolved and publicly available before any decision is made.

I strongly urge the Council to reject this application in its entirety and to uphold the robust policy protections that exist to preserve Green Belt land for future generations.

Yours Sincerely

Mr A P Alcock

Lyndhurst

Sutherland Road, Longsdon, ST9 9QD

Dated: 14th April 2026