

T MOBILE (UK) LTD

**ERECTION OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS INSTALLATION IN THE FORM OF 10 M SIMULATED TELEGRAPH POLE AND ASSOCIATED EQUIPMENT, CHAVES FIELD, MILLMOOR, SAMPFORD ARUNDEL AS AMENDED BY LETTER DATED 11TH OCTOBER, 2002 WITH ACCOMPANYING DRAWINGS NOS 98045/69232/APT01/201B AND 202/B**

1020/1859

FULL PERMISSION

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**PROPOSAL**

The application site is located approximately half a kilometre west of Sampford Arundel on the edge of an agricultural field, currently used as pastureland, adjacent to the Taunton - Exeter railway line. The proposal provides for an 8 m high wood effect monopole, designed to simulate a telegraph pole. The pole will accommodate one bi-sector antenna and one transmission dish, totalling 2 m in height. An associated cabinet measuring 1350 mm x 550 mm x 1475 mm high would be located immediately adjacent. The applicants indicate that the siting of the pole in this location has been proposed in order to minimise the visual impact of the proposal. Bushes and trees of 6-9 m height are sited between the proposed compound area and the railway line, with a dense area of poplar trees situated to the north of the railway line. These will assist in assimilating the pole and its equipment into the landscape. The use of a simulated telegraph pole has been proposed in order to further integrate the installation into the surrounding landscape. There are three existing timber poles with overhead power cables within close proximity of the proposed site. The applicants state that the site the subject of the application is the only site that meets the required criteria for this cell and is intended to give coverage to the railway line in this area. Supporting information submitted with the application confirms that the proposed mast conforms with the ICNIRP guidelines.

**CONSULTATIONS AND REPRESENTATIONS**

PARISH COUNCIL parishioners who live within sight of the proposed installation, i.e. Marlands, Millmoor and Whiteball areas, object to this application on the grounds that it is inappropriate to and will further mar the very rural nature of the landscape in this particular area. The Parish Council supports these objections and expresses concern for the number of applications received for these masts in the parish. Western Power are proposing to clear fell the trees and bushes (6-9 m) sited between the proposed compound and the railway line shown on the plan. Very concerned that if the application is approved and the mast erected, this felling would destroy any natural screening of the installation. Understood that this work is imminent and ask that this be investigated prior to the planning meeting.

THREE LETTERS OF OBJECTION surprised to see yet another application for a phone mast in the parish; different phone companies should use the same mast; object to any more being erected on the grounds of visual amenity; the associated equipment which comes with these masts will be further intrusion into the countryside and will not

enhance the visual amenity; will dominate view from nearby property, especially when the deciduous trees have lost their leaves; no attempt to minimise the visual impact of the mast and compound, which would include unsightly grey steel equipment housing; will only benefit commuters on the railway for a short distance; understand that Western Power are to cut down adjacent trees which mean the pole will be in full view; Taunton Deane should take a stand against mobile phone companies; will set a precedent particularly for a larger mast.

## **POLICY CONTEXT**

Policy WD/CS/10 of the West Deane Local Plan states that applications for the installation of telecommunications equipment will be permitted unless certain factors appertain. Two of these factors are that (i) there is unacceptable impact on wildlife, archaeology or the character of the countryside or any settlement or building involved; and (ii) the siting, external appearance or landscaping would have an adverse visual impact. Policy C13 of the Taunton Deane Local Plan Revised Deposit states that applications for the installation of telecommunications masts will be permitted provided that certain criteria are met. Two of these are that their siting and appearance would minimise harm to the landscape and that there are no alternative sites or solutions with less environmental impact which could be used.

## **ASSESSMENT**

From the limited public vantage points, the proposed mast will be largely seen against a backdrop of existing trees and shrubs adjacent to the railway line. The amended plans incorporate additional tree and hedge planting which will further assimilate the proposed installation into the landscape. I therefore do not consider that the proposed mast will have a particularly detrimental impact on the visual amenity of the area. The distance to the boundary of the nearest dwelling is 150 m. Western Power are not aware that their contractors are carrying out any tree works other than routine trimming of 5 year growth. The proposed pole will be no higher than an average size overhead electricity line pole.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

Permission be GRANTED subject to conditions of materials and landscaping.

**In preparing this report the Planning Officer has considered fully the implications and requirements of the Human Rights Act 1998.**

**CONTACT OFFICER: 356461 MR J HAMER**

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