

PLANNING COMMITTEE 31ST JULY, 2002

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PLANNING OFFICER

49/2000/058 ERECTION OF 20 M LATTICE TOWER TO SUPPORT 3 NO. DIGITAL ANTENNAS AND 2 NO. 300 MM MICROWAVE DISHES AND PROVISION OF RADIO EQUIPMENT IN CABIN (2.7 M X 2.7 M X 3.2 M) IN A SECURE COMPOUND, NORTH RODDEN FARM, MAUNDOWN HILL, MAUNDOWN, WIVELISCOMBE

The above development was granted planning permission on 15th January, 2002, having been approved by the Planning Committee on 9th January, 2002.

In the report to the Planning Committee, the Landscape Officer considered that the proposed antenna was too close to an existing beech tree in the adjacent hedgerow. He considered that the footings should be no closer than half the height of the tree away from the hedgebank. Although the applicants were requested to amend the position of the antenna to take account of the Landscape Officer's views, no plans were received by the date of the Committee. Given that I considered the position of the mast to be acceptable, the application was approved as originally submitted.

In April, the applicants submitted a landscaping plan, seeking to discharge one of the conditions on the approval certificate. It was noted that the position of the proposed antenna on this plan was approximately 18 metres further away from the hedgebank than on the approved plan. The applicants were requested to submit these plans formally for consideration under the minor amendment procedure.

The Parish Council has been consulted and I have notified the occupiers of those addresses notified originally together with those persons who made representations on the application. Three letters of representation have been received making the following points:-

1. Totally opposed to the tower being erected;
2. Concern about health problems being caused by micro-wave dishes and the interference or breakdown to household receivers - those responsible for the erection and use of the tower should be liable for any expenses in this regard;
3. Query why the tower requires a new position when the requisite tests were carried out before the planning application was made;
4. Proposed mast will be an eyesore and taking it away from the trees further will make it even worse;
5. There is a general effort being made to hide these masts around the country.

Although the proposed tower will be more visible when viewed from the field access gate and the entrance to the adjacent reservoir compound, I consider that from a distance the effect of the change in position will be minimal and there will be no greater adverse impact on the environment. I therefore conclude that the amendment to the position to be acceptable.

RECOMMENDATION

The amended positioning of the proposed tower be approved under the minor amendment procedure.

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

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