DELEGATED REPORT

Recommendation Made: 8 August 2011

Reference:- 11/00587/FUL **Parish:- Barwell Parish Council**

Applicant:- Everything Everywhere
Hatfield Business Park
Hatfield
Herts
AL10 9BW

Location:- Barwell Water Tower Shilton Road Barwell Leicester Leicestershire

Proposal:- INSTALLATION OF 2NO. ANTENNA DISHES

Introduction:-

This is a full application for the installation of two new transmission dishes at Barwell Water tower for telecommunications purposes.

There is a proliferation of telecommunications equipment already in existence on the tower.

The transmission dishes are to be erected on existing support poles. One dish has a diameter of 600mm and will be situated towards the southern side of the tower and the other has a diameter of 300mm and will be sited on the eastern site of the tower.

Residential properties surround the site.

The application has been submitted with supplementary information which illustrates that the necessary procedures have been followed in respect of the installation of telecommunications equipment. This concludes that National planning policy as set out in PPG 8 is to facilitate the growth of new and existing telecommunications systems, and operators have obligations to meet customer demands for improved quality of service. This application details the technical need for the installation to provide improved customer service for customers of three mobile operators.

The proposed installation represents both the optimum planning/environmental and technical solution in this instance.

History

There is an extensive history relating to the installation of telecommunications equipment at the above site. The most recent is documented below:-

07/01052/FUL Installation of 600mm transmission dish Approved 24.10.07

06/01151/GDOT Three antennas Application Returned

05/00566/FUL Upgrade of telecommunications site including replacement antennae and additional antennae and equipment cabinets Approved 20.07.05

04/00464/FUL Installation of radio antenna Approved 03.06.04

Consultations:-

No objections have been received from: -

Head of Community Services (Land Drainage)
Head of Community Services (Pollution)

At the time of writing the report no comments have been received from: -
Barwell Parish Council
Ward Members
Neighbours

Development Plan Policies:-

National Planning Policy

Planning Policy Guidance Note 8 (PPG8)

Adopted Core Strategy

Policy 3 - Development in Barwell

Adopted Local Plan

The site lies within the settlement boundary of Barwell as defined in the adopted Hinckley and Bosworth Local Plan.

Policy BE1 - Design and Siting of the Development

Other Guidance

Code of Best Practice on Mobile Phone Network Deployment – (November 2002)
The Code provides a principled approach to best practice for the voluntary and compulsory planning procedures, and for the siting and design of telecommunication installations.

Paragraph 135 of the Code outlines key considerations when siting equipment on an existing building. These include:

Be painted to correspond with the background or to reduce contrast;
Keep in proportion to the building or structure;
Have minimal impact above the roof line;
Not be detrimental to views and general skyline;
Avoid creating clutter.

Appraisal:-

The main issues for consideration in this case are the impacts of the proposal on the visual amenity of the area and on the amenity of the residents of surrounding properties:-

Visual Amenity

The proposed dish antennae are to be located atop Barwell Water Tower, a 30.2 m tall (to top of plant room roof) structure. The dishes are to be 300mmØ and 600mmØ respectively and will be attached to existing support poles on the inside of the parapet wall on top of the tower.

The applicant has stated that great care has been given to ensuring that the dish antennae proposed are the smallest that can be employed whilst ensuring that satisfactory network coverage is achieved.

As there is already a range of existing telecommunications equipment on the water tower, the additional two dishes proposed are not considered materially harmful in terms of visual amenity or on the character of the surrounding area. A proliferation of dishes and antenna already exist on the water tower and the proposed addition of further installations will not significantly alter the appearance of the site.

Residential Amenity

The latest government research conducted by the Independent Expert Group on Mobile Phone Technology titled “Mobile Phones and Health” (also known as the Stewart Report) concluded that “the balance of evidence indicates that there is no general risk to the health of people living near to base stations on the basis that exposures are expected to be small fractions of the guidelines”.

However, the report also recommended, as a precautionary approach, that the ICNIRP guidelines for public exposure be adopted in the UK. In response to the report, the Government has stated that emissions from base stations should meet the ICNIRP guidelines and that if they do then local authorities need take no further action.

As no changes are to be made to the transmitting antennae at this site, with only two microwave dishes being installed, no new ICNIRP certificate is required for this application.

Noise
As this proposal simply involves the addition of 2 no. dish antennae, there will be no noise issues related to this site.

Conclusion

The proposed installation represents both the optimum planning/environmental and technical solution in this instance. As such, the development as proposed is in accordance with both local and national planning guidance as defined above. The proposal is therefore recommended for approval.

RECOMMENDATION:- Permit subject to the following conditions:-

Summary of Reasons for Recommendation and Relevant Development Plan Policies :

1 The development hereby permitted shall be begun before the expiration of three years from the date of this permission.

2 The development hereby permitted shall not be carried out otherwise than in complete accordance with the submitted application details, as follows: Drg Nos:- 95199003, 95199002, 95199001 received by the Local Planning Authority on the 18.07.11

Reasons :-

1 To comply with the requirements of Section 51 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

2 For the avoidance of doubt and in the interests of proper planning

Notes to Applicant:-

1 Bats, nesting birds, great crested newts and certain other species are protected by law. If any such species are discovered before or during the works the works must be suspended and the local office of Natural England contacted for advice.

2 This permission does not grant approval under the Building Act 1984 and the Building Regulations 2000 (as amended) for which a separate application may be required. You are advised to contact the Building Control Section.

3 As from 6 April 2008 this Authority are charging for the discharge of conditions in accordance with revised fee regulations which came into force on that date. Application forms to discharge conditions and further information can be found on the planning portal web site www.planningportal.gov.uk.

4 All works within the limits of the Highway with regard to the access shall be carried out to the satisfaction of the Southern Area Manager (0116 3052202).

Contact Officer:- **Eleanor Shaw** **Ext 5680**