

POLSTEAD – WATSONS CORNER WATER TOWER, HOLT ROAD

Installation of 3 no. dish poles supporting 3 no. 600mm transmission dishes with associated feeder cables and internal equipment in base of tower.

Applicant: Anglian Water Services Limited

Case Officer: Alison Taylor

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SITE

1. The application site is located to the east of the A1071 and to the north of Polstead Caravan Park. Wayside, a detached dwelling is sited approximately 120m to the south and Brewery Farm lies approximately 100m to the northeast of the site. The site lies wholly outside any built up area boundary.

PROPOSAL

2. The water tower is 12.5m wide by 20.3m high. The three proposed pole mounted dish antennae each have a diameter of 0.6m and are located on the inside face of the parapet wall of the water tower, 21.2m above ground level.
3. Planning permission is required because the combined size of all the dish antennae on the water tower exceeds the permitted development limits.
4. The proposal also includes the installation of associated feeder cables and internal equipment in the base of the tower.
5. A supporting statement and health and safety statement have been submitted in support of the application and can be seen in full by prior arrangement with the case officer. The following comprises a summary of the points raised: -
  - This is a scanner site which collects data from Great Horkesley Reservoir, Great Cornard Water Tower and Sproughton Office and is an important part of the Anglian Water Services (AWS) Telemetry System.
  - AWS is authorised to operate an electronic communications network and aims to meet all reasonable customer demands assisted by the provision of this proposed system.
  - Despite considerable efforts AWS has been unable to obtain a satisfactory replacement telecoms network operator to meet current and emerging needs and has opted to provide its own secure telecoms network.
  - Proposal is in accordance with PPG8 by utilising an existing structure and site sharing.
  - Proposal has been designed to minimise its impact on the local environment whilst providing the necessary line of sight between adjoining linked sites.
  - The radio beam emission is transmitted directly from dish to dish and is not radiated out over a wider area.

- Confirm that the proposed installation is fully compliant with the requirements of the radio frequency public exposure guidelines of the International Commission on Non-Ionising Radiation Protection Board (ICNIRP).

## HISTORY

6. 1999 - Full planning permission granted for installation of 1.8m diameter dish antenna (existing 0.6m diameter dish to be removed) - B/99/01165/FUL
7. 1996 – No objection to Notification under Part 24 of Schedule 2 of the Town & Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 - erection of 6 No. pole mounted antennae - B/96/01178/TEL
8. 1995 - Full planning permission granted for installation of 2 No. 1.2m and 1 No. 0.6m diameter dishes - B/95/00567/FUL
9. 1993 - Full planning permission granted for installation of 5 No. 0.6m dish antennae - B/93/00120/FUL
10. 1993 – No objection to Notification under Part 24 of Schedule 2 of the Town & Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 – installation of radio equipment housing - B/93/00115/TEL

## POLICY

### **PPG 8 - Telecommunications**

11. PPG 8 offers guidance to local planning authorities in relation to telecommunications development. The Government recognises that in some cases, the nature of telecommunications development may be in conflict with established local and national policies. However, local planning authorities are urged to ‘be alive’ to the special needs and technical problems of telecommunications development. Each application for telecommunications development (PPG8 advises) should be determined in accordance with the development plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

**Please note that details or extracts of policies are no longer included in reports – see page 4 of these papers.**

12. The following adopted development plan policies provide the framework against which this application should be judged:

**Babergh Local Plan Alteration No.2 (2006)** *the policy references below relate to the adopted version of the Local Plan - the policy numbers in some cases differ from those in the second deposit draft. Where this is the case, the previous reference number is given in brackets*

- Policy EN26 (EN27) (Telecommunications)

## OBSERVATIONS

13. PC – To be reported if available.
14. Letters – None received.

## ASSESSMENT

15. Local Plan policy EN26 states that applications for telecommunications development should be assessed against factors including the height, visibility, scale and design of antennae and the utilisation of existing buildings, structures and other radio sites.
16. In 1999 the Government commissioned the National Radiological Protection Board (NRPB) to set up the Independent Expert Group on Mobile Phones. The group, which was chaired by Sir William Stewart, considered public concerns about health effects of mobile phones, base stations and transmitters. The Group's report (known as the Stewart Report) concludes 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, there can be indirect adverse effects on their well being in some cases.' The Group recommended a precautionary approach, comprising a series of specific measures, to the use of mobile telephone technologies until more detailed and scientifically robust information on any health effects is available. The Stewart Report stopped short of suggesting that Local Planning Authorities should refuse planning permission to telecommunication masts and equipment either wholly or partly on health grounds.
17. The Government is firm that Local Planning Authorities should not consider the health aspects of a telecommunications equipment proposal, if the application meets the guidelines of the International Commission on Non-Ionising Radiation Protection Board (ICNIRP). In this case, documents submitted with the application confirm that the proposed equipment works within those guidelines and that the proposed installation will not result in radio frequency power densities exceeding the ICNIRP guidelines.
18. The small scale of the telecommunications equipment proposed within this application is such that it will not be particularly noticeable, located on the existing water tower adjacent to a number of larger dish and pole antennae. In light of the above, it is not considered that the proposed installation will detract from the character and appearance of the area.

## REASON FOR APPROVAL

The proposal, for the installation of 3 no. pole mounted dish antennae on an existing water tower is considered to be in accordance with the provisions of policy EN26 of the Babergh Local Plan Alteration No 2 (2006). In particular, the proposed development is not considered to lead to any significant adverse impact upon the character of the area by virtue of the size of antennae and location on an existing building.

## RECOMMENDATION

Grant planning permission.

## DECISION

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