

**Sarah Valentine**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 26 June 2025 16:40  
**To:** planninginfo  
**Subject:** Objection to Planning Application Ref: DM/25/1495

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Dear Sir or Madam,

I'm writing as a local resident of The Beeches Estate (on Rocky Drive) to raise my objections to the proposed installation of a 22.5-metre telecommunications mast on the field directly next to our community.

To be candid, I was quite taken aback when I studied the application more closely. It's not just the height of the mast that concerns me - though at over 22 metres, it's certainly imposing - but also the nature and scale of the equipment attached to it. The structure isn't the slender pole I had imagined. At the top, it will support a vast drum-like antenna array, measuring roughly six metres wide by four metres high. That's about the size of a small bungalow - and it will be hoisted high above the treeline, completely exposed and visible from the estate.

The developers suggest that existing trees will obscure the mast from view, but the elevation drawings paint a very different picture. The mast will stand roughly twice the height of the surrounding trees, making any suggestion of screening implausible. In terms of appearance, the installation will have a significant and negative impact on the landscape, introducing a bulky, industrial-looking structure into what is currently a green and semi-rural setting.

Its position is equally troubling. The proposed site is just 60 metres from the edge of the estate and only 80 metres from the nearest homes. That's about the length of a standard football pitch - close enough to be a constant and unwelcome presence in people's daily lives. From our gardens and windows, the mast and its oversized array will dominate the skyline, resulting in considerable overbearing impact and loss of outlook.

There are also real concerns about the quality of the design. The structure is not only unsightly but entirely out of scale with the surroundings. No meaningful landscaping or mitigation measures are proposed, and there's little indication that the impact on local residents has been seriously considered.

What makes all of this even harder to justify is the mast's limited purpose. Contrary to what some might assume, this isn't being built to improve signal for the southern side of Haywards Heath. Its primary function is to provide 5G connectivity to a very short, 900-metre stretch of the London to Brighton rail line. The application itself admits that any coverage to nearby homes will be merely "incidental." For a structure of this scale, in such a sensitive location, this seems like a disproportionate and unnecessary intrusion.

There are other factors worth considering too. The construction and maintenance of the mast could bring significantly increased noise and disturbance to nearby homes, particularly during the installation phase. The location may also impact local highways and access, particularly if maintenance vehicles need regular entry to the site via residential roads. Furthermore, the

development could lead to the removal of important trees or hedgerows - features that are not only valued locally, but also provide habitat for wildlife.

It's worth noting that the official deadline for objections has been a point of confusion. The letter delivered to my home mentioned 14th July, while a letter online from the case officer states 7th July. I've asked for clarification, but this inconsistency may discourage some residents from making their views heard.

In light of all this, I strongly urge the council to refuse this application. The mast is oversized, poorly sited, of limited local benefit, and would cause lasting harm to the character and amenity of the area. I hope the council will give serious weight to the concerns of those who live here and take a more considered view on this development.

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted address]

NB: For privacy reasons, please refrain from including my address and telephone number in any public files. Thank you.