

Planning Services Division
Mid Sussex District Council
Oaklands
Oaklands Road
Haywards Heath
RH16 1SS

06 April 2025

Dear Hamish,

I am writing to formally object to the planning application no. DM/25/0589 for the installation of a 30m telecommunications mast on the Local Wildlife Site, to the North of Leylands Road.

The proposed mast and associated antennas would exceed the height and width of any existing street furniture, buildings, or tree lines in the local area, making it visually prominent from all directions. The mast's height and location will overlook neighbouring properties, causing a loss of privacy, casting shadows, and reducing daylight, which could negatively impact residents' enjoyment of their homes.

Furthermore, the mast would dominate the skyline for miles around, resulting in unnecessary visual clutter. It would introduce a prominent, obstructive, incongruous, and non-native feature to our Local community.

The proposed mast would negatively impact the aesthetic of this natural area, which is designated as a Local Wildlife Site. The reports provided are highly misleading, particularly as the ecological survey was conducted during the Winter when local wildlife is in hibernation and less visible or abundant. This area supports a rich diversity of wildlife, including but not limited to birds of prey, newts, bats, stoats, hedgehogs, woodpeckers, badgers, voles, butterflies, moths and owls.

At ground level, the cabinets and associated compound and electronics will only serve to harm the enjoyment of the public that use this area on a daily basis, be it for dog walking, bird watching, access to the station or simply for exercise. The proposed planting does not go far enough to compensate or disguise the negative impact this development would have on this beautiful green corridor through an otherwise built up area.

The proposed mast significantly exceeds the size of other telecommunications equipment located in Burgess Hill. This location within the Local Wildlife Site is in close proximity to residential homes, commercial premises, a local primary school, and a nursery. There are concerns regarding the potential health effects, particularly over medium and long-term periods, due to the lack of long-term studies. Additionally, there is no information provided on whether the cooling fans required for the mast and cabinets will produce excessive noise or if the excess heat generated may contribute to climate change. Furthermore, the application has not addressed the potential impact of electromagnetic fields on medical implants. The installation of the 4G mast seems unnecessary given the existing 5G signals in the area. The consultation process for this installation was not sufficiently thorough, and preliminary communications did not adequately inform the local school and nursery.

Key Points from ICNIRP 2020:

Exposure Limits: The guidelines set maximum permissible exposure levels for both occupational and general public settings.

Biological Effects: ICNIRP reviewed scientific literature on potential health effects, including thermal and non-thermal interactions.

Pacemakers & Implants: While the guidelines do not specifically address pacemakers, they acknowledge that metallic implants may alter EMF absorption.

Electromagnetic Interference (EMI): Pacemakers can be affected by strong EMFs, potentially leading to malfunctions or unintended pacing.

Metallic Implants & EMFs: Metallic implants can alter or amplify EMFs, potentially increasing radiation absorption. This includes hip replacements, dental fillings, braces, jewellery, and even underwired bras.

While the ICNIRP guidelines offer a declaration of conformity, they do not certificate or indemnify against harm caused by Electromagnetic radiation interfering with metallic implants and devices. Along with other local residents, we live within very close proximity of the proposed structure and are concerned for the health of the local community.

With regard to telecommunications infrastructure, the Mid Sussex District plan states:

DP23: The Council will encourage the incorporation of digital infrastructure including fibre to premises, in major new housing, employment and retail development.

When considering proposals for new telecommunication equipment the following criteria will be taken into account:

- The location and appearance of the proposed apparatus and associated structures should seek to minimise impact on the visual amenity, character or appearance of the surrounding area.*
- New telecommunication equipment should not have an unacceptable effect on sensitive areas, including areas of ecological interest, areas of landscape importance, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, the South Downs National Park, archaeological sites, conservation areas or buildings of architectural or historic interest and should be sensitively designed and sited to avoid damage to the local landscape character;*
- Preference will be for use to be made of existing sites rather than the provision of new sites. When considering applications for telecommunications development, regard will be given to the operational requirements of telecommunications networks and the technical limitations of the technology.*

With all the development in and around Burgess Hill at present, why is the proposed mast and associated equipment not being considered for installation within one of these developments?

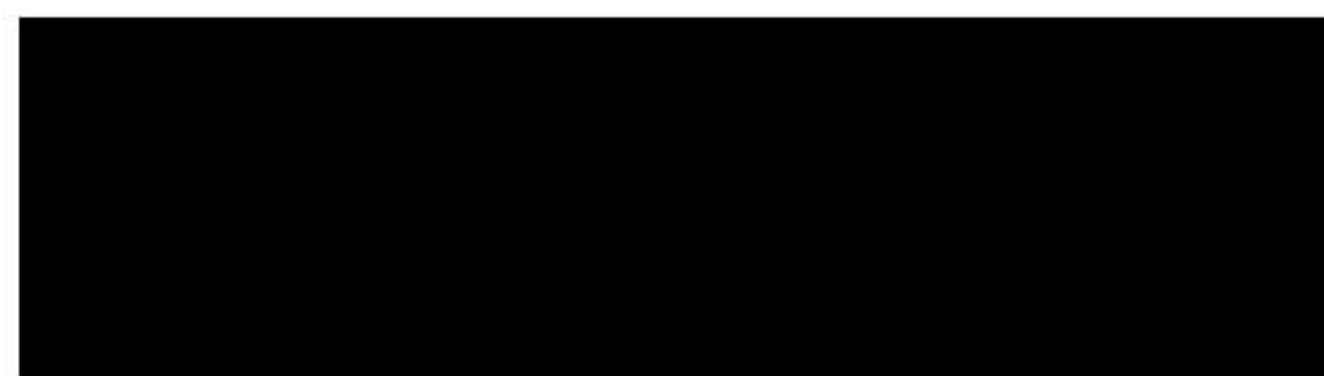
How does this proposal seek to minimise impact on the visual amenity?

What measures have been taken to ensure that the proposed mast, its associated cabinets, and compound do not adversely impact a sensitive local wildlife site given the apparent lack of sensitivity in their design and positioning within the local landscape?

What evidence is there that any existing sites were considered for the siting of the proposed infrastructure prior to this application being submitted?

In conclusion, I strongly urge the planning authorities to refuse this application due to the significant negative impact it would have on the local environment, visual amenity, neighbouring properties, and public health.

Kind regards,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the sender.