



ANSTY AND STAPLEFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Ansty and Staplefield Parish Council continue to strongly object to the application DM/25/1495.

We feel that it goes against the District Plan, DP12 as it would be an intrusion on an area of countryside highlighted in the District Plan which states its primary objective is minimising the land taken for development and preventing development that does not need to be there.

It also goes against DP23, communication infrastructure, as the mast is unnecessary. Sufficient connectivity for the Brighton mainline has been proven in the objections on the planning portal. In addition, the Applicant, Cellnex Connectivity Solutions Limited, argued a similar mast application last year was unnecessary due to sufficient existing telecommunications infrastructure on a pylon in Rocky Lane, only 0.4 miles from the new proposed site (DM/24/0880, application withdrawn). Cellnex wrote:

“Pylons are capable of supporting a significant amount of equipment. Indeed, Pylon 4VM121 supports antennas for two MNO’s (Vodafone & VM02). There are also other, currently unutilised pylons in the locality that could also accommodate electronic communications apparatus... The emphasis within the English, Scottish and Welsh planning policy and guidance is clear, that is, for the use of existing masts, buildings and other structures before the provision of a new mast. Pylons represent existing structures that are capable and available for supporting electronic communications apparatus... The current technical and operational requirements of two MNOs are met by Cellnex on pylon 4VM121”

A&SPC also are also concerned about the biodiversity impact (it was felt the assessment was done at the wrong time of year when most wildlife was in hibernation) and ignores nearby ancient woodland. The application also fails to acknowledge that whilst the proposed mast site is not within 20m of a watercourse, the site access and proposed access track would run immediately alongside a watercourse as there is a wide stream running along the lower edge of the field. The steep gradient of the field has also not been considered, especially considering the gov.uk flood map shows a likelihood of flooding for surface water in that area.

The proposed mast is also sited only metres from a children’s park, houses in the immediate vicinity were not notified directly, and neither the local primary school nor preschool were notified of the application. Several objections from local resident’s state they have metallic implants in the body and also a resident with an insulin pump which is an Active Implantable Medical Device (AIMD). The ICNIRP safety guidelines do not cover anyone with metal implants and AIMDs. UKHSA guidance says that people with metal and medical implants are safe only if they remain outside the Public Exclusion Zone (PEZ). Please can the applicant clarify the PEZ as this is essential to the lawful assessment of materiality for those with metal implants and AIMDs. Without this information, neither the Council nor affected

residents can determine whether this group, whose risk lies outside the ICNIRP-certified envelope, would be placed in a position of avoidable harm, interference, or nuisance.

A&SPC considered this mast overdevelopment due to its size and that bridging a gap of 26 seconds of connectivity doesn't justify the risks and impact of erecting the mast.

We have had significant objection from many residents, including attendance at our meeting in July, in addition to over 150 objections on the planning portal. We support the residents in their opposition. District Councillors Malcolm Avery and Richard Bates have requested this goes to a planning committee due to the level of opposition.

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