



John Gill
Director of Business Development
Network Rail
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Date:

Dear Sir or Madam,

TRANSFORMING MOBILE CONNECTIVITY ALONG THE BRIGHTON MAINLINE. PLANNING APPLICATION BY CELLNEX CONNECTIVITY SOLUTIONS LIMITED FOR THE INSTALLATION OF A NEW MOBILE COMMUNICATION SITE

Network Rail offers full support to the planning application mentioned above, which seeks to provide infrastructure to enable mobile connectivity along the Brighton Mainline. There are several compelling reasons for our support and some of these are outlined below.

The Brighton Mainline service runs 60 miles from London to the South Coast, through some of the UK's most densely populated areas. Brighton Mainline and its branch lines carry 1,700 trains and approximately 300,000 passengers daily at its busiest.

We, along with our key partner – Cellnex Connectivity Solutions Ltd, have a pivotal role in supporting investment in critical telecommunications infrastructure across the UK. This will offer enhanced connectivity for businesses, passengers and the wider community. The benefits of improving connectivity along the route goes far beyond enhanced mobile coverage. Increased telecom infrastructure deployment has huge potential to deliver real commercial and societal benefits. These benefits include:

- Enhanced passenger experience to communicate and work effectively 'on the move'
- Driving local economic growth, supporting local small businesses and sustainable communities
- Promoting digital inclusion and offering enhanced connectivity to remote locations
- Growing sustainable rail transport infrastructure and help tackle climate change

This project also aligns with the Government's policy (as presented in NPPF, July 2021) which lays out its support for such projects, stating *"Advanced, high quality and reliable communications infrastructure is essential for economic growth and social well-being. Planning policies and decisions should support the expansion of electronic communications networks, including next generation mobile technology (such as 5G) and full fibre broadband connections"*.

The improved connectivity along the Brighton Mainline will improve the satisfaction of passengers with their rail journeys (in being able to make calls or use mobile data for work or leisure) as well as improve mobile connectivity for local communities that are our line-side neighbours. Accordingly; Network Rail whole-heartedly supports this planning application.

The mobile communications site proposed has been designed and positioned to fully comply with Network Rail's various safeguarding criteria for development on or close to railway infrastructure, so we advise that this matter should not be a consideration for the local planning authority.


John Gill