

Sarah Valentine

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 25 March 2025 12:07
To: planninginfo
Subject: Comments for Planning Application DM/25/0589

[REDACTED]

Dear Sir / Madam,

I am writing an objection to the planning application for a 30 metre mast as per planning application DM/25/0589.

[REDACTED]

We strongly object to the installation of a 30 metre mast on green space used by members of the public daily, as it will be an eyesore for both local residents who have been consulted, and also visually impact a far wider area of people who haven't been consulted, with minimal benefit to the local community. Detailed comments as follows...

Minimal consultation with surrounding neighbourhood. We understand that only 14 properties have been contacted by letter regarding the proposed mast installation. It is also noted that only 3 properties East of the railway line have been consulted, when at 30 metres in height (24 metres above the level of the existing railway track!!), this mast will have a visual impact upon hundreds of houses in the area (both East and West of the railway track)

Visual impact on surrounding area. This mast, at 30 metres in height, will dwarf all around it, and will have a significant visual impact on both the immediate, and surrounding area. This can clearly be seen in photographic "View 2 – The Blackthorns" where the mast towers above the local houses. It should also be noted that the photographs demonstrating the impact on the area were taken in September, and early October 2024, when the trees were fully covered in leaves. The impact of the mast in these photos would be considerably worse had the photos been taken between November and March when the trees in the photos had shed their leaves. It is also noted that no photographic evidence was presented of the visual impact this 30 meter high mast would have on the area to the East of the railway line, or further afield to the West.

Government regulations on applications for mobile masts stipulate that local residents should be allowed to make their views known, and that the rollout of telecoms infrastructure is carried out in “a transparent and appropriate way”. The LPA’s decision should be based on the siting and appearance of a new mast. The photographic evidence presented in the planning documents is certainly not presented in a transparent and appropriate way, as for example View 3 only shows the bottom of the mast, and View 1 and View 4 only show the impact when the trees are fully covered in leaves. There is no photographic evidence of the significant visual impact this mast will have from the East of the railway line (Manor Field, Janes Lane, Valebridge Road), or to the West of the railway along Maple Drive or Leylands Road areas.

Significant local visual impact, with minimal local benefit. Based on the Predicted Radio Coverage from the Proposed Site (Annexe B of the Technical Support Statement), the local benefit in terms of improved mobile signal will be fairly limited to the immediate area, and across Bedelands Nature Reserve. The beneficiaries will be commuters on trains (who won’t have to live with a 30 metre mast), rather than the local community.

The proposed land on which this 30 metre high mast is to be built is a popular walkway for commuters, parents and school children accessing local schools and nurseries, dog walkers and for access to the popular Bedelands Nature Reserve. I am not aware of any consultation with these interested parties, and their views on the impact the installation of a 30 metre high mast would have on them. It is also an area housing considerable wildlife.

Is this the most suitable site for a 30 metre mast, given the negative visual impact it will have on the area, and the limited local benefit? I don’t believe it is.

[Redacted signature block]

Regards

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