

From: planninginfo@midsussex.gov.uk <planninginfo@midsussex.gov.uk>
Sent: 04 July 2025 10:56:44 UTC+01:00
To: "Hamish Evans" <hamish.evans@midsussex.gov.uk>
Subject: Mid Sussex DC - Online Register - Comments for Planning Application DM/25/1495

Comments summary

Dear Sir/Madam,

Planning Application comments have been made. A summary of the comments is provided below.

Comments were submitted at 04/07/2025 10:56 AM.

Application Summary

Address:	Land Adj. To Rocky Lane Haywards Heath West Sussex
Proposal:	The installation of a 22.5 metre lattice mast, mounted with 9No. antennas, 12No. cabinets, 1No. Electrical meter cabinet located within a compound comprised of 2.4 metre high chain-link fence topped with 3 strands of barbed wire and the creation of a new access from Rocky Lane and ancillary development thereto.
Case Officer:	Hamish Evans

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Customer Details

Address: 12 Old House Lane Haywards Heath

Comments Details

Commenter Type:	Neighbour or general public
Stance:	Customer objects to the Planning Application
Reasons for comment:	
Comments:	OBJECTION TO PLANNING APPLICATION DM/25/1495 My wife and I object to this planning application on a number of grounds that we set out below. Others have commented at length on various technical aspects of the application so we will keep our comments brief and to the point while fully endorsing those earlier comments. Location and appearance

The proposed site is too close to existing residential developments which will have a negative impact on the environment. Currently we enjoy uninterrupted views of the National Landscape surrounding the Southern side of Haywards Heath and of the South Downs National Park. The proposed size and appearance of the mast will destroy the natural beauty of the area and it is wholly inappropriate. You have already set a precedent for refusing planning permission for a mast on these grounds in planning application DM/23/0434. The conclusion in the decision notice states that:

"It is considered that there are clear benefits from the proposal in relation to improved telecommunications infrastructure within the District. These are matters that weigh in favour of the application when considering the siting and design of the proposal. Weighed against this, however, it is considered that the proposal would still have a detrimental impact on the character and appearance of the area. The mast would be a very prominent feature within the locality that would be significantly taller than the existing street furniture and exacerbated by the changing land levels. It is not considered that the impact on the amenity of the area has been minimised from the proposal and the harms previously identified remain. In light of the above it is considered the application conflicts with policy DP23 of the Mid Sussex District Plan. Therefore the siting and design of the proposed mast cannot be approved."

We consider that the current application should be refused on these grounds alone although we refer below to more serious consequences of the proposal.

Impact on local traffic

The proposed site entrance has the potential to cause a further distraction on what is an already very busy road. Drivers' attention may also be distracted by the scale of the mast which could lead to an increase in RTAs.

Connectivity and public benefit

The application refers to the public benefit that may be gained from the mast. In our opinion there will be no public benefit as there is already excellent connectivity in the area. As regular users of the BML we can confirm that there is a good signal along most of the line except for a small number of places such as the tunnels. We have found that there is no particular problem with losing connectivity for a few seconds as it is perfectly possible to work off-line and then synchronise with cloud storage once the signal returns. With regard to local businesses, and those who work from home, the area is served by high speed fibre broadband so there is no need for a 5G network.

Ecological impact

The proposed site is adjacent to ancient woodland which supports a diverse range of flora and fauna. Numerous studies have demonstrated the adverse effects on wildlife from the radiation from telecommunications masts. As an example please refer to <https://ehtrust.org/electromagnetic-radiation-wildlife-and-environment>

Impact on health

This is by far our most serious concern as the radiation from the mast would be concentrated in close proximity to residential properties with a high proportion of young children and elderly residents. These two cohorts are the most susceptible to RFR. Innumerable studies have highlighted the very serious, negative health consequences of living in close proximity to telecommunications equipment. Many health issues have been cited including cancer, DNA damage, infertility, neurological disorders, depression, skin problems, thyroid issues and more. Many countries, including France and India, have introduced far more stringent controls on radiation than we have in the UK because of the potential damage to the health of young children. The proposal refers to the ICNIRP guidelines by stating "The proposed antennas will comply with all relevant health and safety requirements and will be compliant with the ICNIRP guidelines." However, these guidelines are several years out of date and they specifically exclude individuals with metallic implants or electronic medical devices. On a personal note my wife has such an implant and I rely on an electronic device to monitor a heart condition so our concerns are heightened by our personal circumstances. Given that the impact of radiation falls rapidly with distance from the source of the radiation it would seem logical to move the mast to a location much further away from residential developments. There is also the moral question of putting lives at risk for very little, if any, public benefit.

Kind regards.

Kind regards