

Hamish Evans

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 08 July 2025 00:08
To: Hamish Evans
Subject: Planning ref DM/25/1495

[REDACTED]
Dear Mr Evans

I am a local resident and writing to OBJECT to the application for Planning Permission, reference DM/25/1495.

This application for a telecommunications tower is in an area of countryside and there would be a huge visual impact. The appearance of this tower would be incongruous with the area of natural beauty and would be visible from many properties in Rocky Lane.

The paperwork provided by the applicant shows that the coverage area is very small, only intending to provide coverage for the London to Brighton mainline, for less than 30 seconds of train travel. [Signalchecker.co.uk](https://signalchecker.co.uk) already shows there is sufficient 4G coverage in this area from many networks, and that O2 already provides 5G signal in this area.

The Mid Sussex District Plan 2021 – 2039 (p.34) states that, 'The primary objective of the District Plan with respect to the countryside... is to secure its protection by minimising the amount of land taken for development and preventing development that does not need to be there.' This tower does not need to be there as there is already telecommunication infrastructure on an existing electricity pylon very close to the proposed site.

Regarding new telecommunications equipment, the District Plan (p.72) also states, '1. 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... 2. New telecommunications 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'. The applicant's Preliminary Ecological Assessment and Biodiversity Net Gain Report notes that the proposed site is situated only 309m of a statutory designated site – the Ashenground and Bolnore Woods Local Nature Reserve (LNR), in addition to a second Local Nature Reserve 790m to the South at Bedelands Farm. However, the report fails to mention two areas of Ancient Woodland (Rookery Shaw and Fountains Wood) that are both identified in Natural England's recent update on areas of ancient woodland, and are managed by the Ancient Woods Trust.

The proximity of this proposed tower to LNRs and ancient woodland may have a huge biodiversity impact. Research suggests that electromagnetic radiation may be harmful to flora and fauna, including damaging trees. This tower would be positioned very close to mature trees, including the ancient woodland, which will be subjected to constant electromagnetic radiation. There are concerns it may be seriously harmful to wildlife, including vital pollinators such as bees as they use magnetoreception for navigation, which makes them sensitive to electromagnetic fields. Levitt, Lai and Manville (2022) state, "*Many species of flora and fauna, because of distinctive physiologies, have been found sensitive to*

exogenous EMF in ways that surpass human reactivity. Such exposures may now be capable of affecting endogenous bioelectric states in some species. Numerous studies across all frequencies and taxa indicate that low-level EMF exposures have numerous adverse effects, including on orientation, migration, food finding, reproduction, mating, nest and den building, territorial maintenance, defense, vitality, longevity, and survivorship. Cyto- and geno-toxic effects have long been observed” (1).

The proposed tower would be sited only 40m away from the play and exercise equipment and only 50m from the nearest houses on the Rocky Lane development, where children play and potentially people with pacemakers or implantable cardioverter defibrillators may live and work. Whilst the long term health affects of non-ionizing electromagnetic radiation are disputed and still under investigation, there is sufficient evidence available to err on the side of caution and exercise the precautionary principle. Balmori (2022), reviewed the data on the effect on humans living around mobile phone base stations and found that *“there are three types of effects by base station antennas on the health of humans: radiofrequency sickness, cancer and changes in biochemical parameters” (2).*

As outlined above, I believe the proposed site is totally inappropriate for the installation of this tower, the tower is totally unnecessary and the application for planning permission should be refused. There is no justification for the tower, it goes against the Mid Sussex District Plan, it would be detrimental to local wildlife and potentially people living nearby, and would be a prominent eyesore in what is currently a beautiful area of the countryside.

- (1) Levitt, B, Lai, H. & Manville, A. (2022) ‘Effects of non-ionizing electromagnetic fields on flora and fauna, Part 3. Exposure standards, public policy, laws, and future directions.’

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/34563106/>

- (2) Balmori, A. (2022) ‘Evidence for a health risk by RF on humans living around mobile phone base stations: From radiofrequency sickness to cancer’. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0013935122011781#preview-section-abstract>

Kind regards

[Redacted Signature]

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