

**WELWYN HATFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - PLANNING, PUBLIC PROTECTION AND GOVERNANCE**

**DELEGATED APPLICATION**

**Application No:** 6/2021/3037/FULL  
**Location:** Land adjacent to Comet Way Hatfield AL10 9SL  
**Proposal:** Installation of a 20m monopole supporting 3 x antennas and ancillary development involving removal of existing 15m monopole  
**Officer:** Ms Kirsty Shirley

**Recommendation:** Granted

6/2021/3037/FULL

<b>Context</b>	
<b>Site and Application description</b>	<p>The site is located at the back of a grassed verge to the west of Comet Way, adjacent to a cycle path. Further west is another grass verge and hedge beyond which is Hatfield Police Station with associated landscaping containing several trees in front of the building. To the east of the site is Comet Way (A1001), a dual carriageway with grassed central reservation containing a crash barrier. Further east is a large parking area associated with Galleria Outlet Shopping Centre to the south of the site. Beyond the car park are trees and residential dwellings. To the north east Comet Way continues with trees and bushes on either side. To the south east is a retain park and car sales showrooms with associated large parking areas.</p> <p>The proposal is for the erection of a 20m monopole supporting three antennas following the removal of the existing 15m monopole. The applicant has outlined that the purpose of these works is to enable enhanced, 2G, 3G and 4G coverage and capacity to the surrounding area, as well as the provision of 5G service.</p> <p>The application initially included an Armco crash barrier in front of the development between the A1001 but this was removed from the proposal following concerns from Hertfordshire County Council's Transport Programmes and Strategy team.</p>
<b>Constraints (as defined within WHDP 2005)</b>	<p>LBC - LISTED BUILDING Staff mess offices 1934 by Geoffrey Monro for - Distance: 49.66            PAR - PARISH (HATFIELD) - Distance: 0            Wards - Hatfield Villages - Distance: 0            A4HD - Article 4 HMO Direction - Distance: 0            CP - Cycle Path (Cycle Facility / Route) - Distance: 0            HEN - No known habitats present (medium priority for habitat creation) - Distance: 0            SAGB - Sand and Gravel Belt - Distance: 0            HHAA - Hatfield Heritage Assessment Area (Hatfield Business Park) - Distance: 0            A4DES - Article 4 Direction Employment Sites() - Distance: 0</p>
<b>Relevant planning history</b>	<p>Application Number: S6/2005/1321/DT            Decision: Granted            Decision Date: 14 December 2005</p>

	Proposal: Erection of 12 metre high monopole and equipment cabinet.  Application Number: S6/2014/2605/DT Decision: Granted Decision Date: 21 January 2015 Proposal: Replacement of existing 12 metre telecoms pole with new 15 metres telecoms pole and 2 no. Cabinets		
<b>Consultations</b>			
<b>Neighbour representations</b>	Support: 0	Object: 0	Other: 0
<b>Publicity</b>	Site Notice Display Date: 11 November 2021 Site Notice Expiry Date: 2 December 2021 Neighbour notification letter		
<b>Summary of neighbour responses</b>	None received		
<b>Consultees and responses</b>	Hatfield Town Council – no response  Conservation Officer – Comment: <i>No objection is raised as no additional harm to the significance of the listed buildings is caused, in accordance with Section 16 of the NPPF and Section 66(1) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990</i>  HCC Hertfordshire Transport Programmes & Strategy – Comment: <i>Initial objection withdrawn as sufficient information has since been provided to ensure there is no negative impact on the highway network.</i>  WHBC Public Health and Protection – Comment: <i>no issues to raise</i>		
<b>Relevant Policies</b>			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NPPF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> D1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> D2 <input type="checkbox"/> GBSP1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GBSP2 <input type="checkbox"/> M14 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supplementary Design Guidance <input type="checkbox"/> Supplementary Parking Guidance <input type="checkbox"/> Interim Policy for car parking and garage sizes Others: R21, SP9			
<b>Main Issues</b>			
<b>Is the development within a conservation area?</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No			
<b>Would the significance of the designated heritage asset be preserved or enhanced?</b>			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No			
<b>Comment (if applicable):</b>			
<b>Would the development reflect the character of the area?</b>			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No			
<b>Comment (if applicable):</b> The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) supports high quality communications. Paragraph 114 outlines that 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. Furthermore, Paragraph 115 outlines that the use of existing masts, buildings and other structures for new electronic communications capability (including wireless) should be encouraged. However, where new sites are required (such as for new 5G networks, or for connected transport and smart city applications), equipment should be			

sympathetically designed and camouflaged where appropriate.

Policy R21 of the District Plan outlines that proposal for telecommunications development will be considered against nine criteria. Policies D1 and D2 of the District Plan are also relevant which seek a high standard of design and that development respects and relates to its context. Furthermore, Policy SP9 of the Draft Local Plan supports this.

The proposal is for the erection of a 20m monopole following the removal of the existing 15m monopole. The proposed monopole would be positioned north compared to the existing monopole but would remain in proximity to the remaining associated cabinets. The proposed monopole would be taller in height compared to the existing monopole. To mitigate the visual impact of the monopole, the monopole has been designed to be as slim as operationally possible to assimilate with other vertical structures in the vicinity, such as flagpoles and lighting columns. The monopole would be made of steel and would be grey in colour. The colour grey would match the other vertical columns within the vicinity and would not appear as a stark contrast to the surroundings. The proposed antenna would be located at the top of the monopole for optimal operational efficiency, however they have been designed to be a similar width to the main column to minimise their visual appearance.

It is therefore considered that the location, design and appearance of the proposed monopole would not appear intrusive or harmful to the appearance of the street scene in accordance with Policies R21, D1 and D2 of the Welwyn Hatfield District Plan.

In line with Policy R21 however, a condition will be included requiring removal if the development is no longer required for telecommunications purposes.

**Would the development maintain the amenity of adjoining occupiers?** (e.g. privacy, outlook, light etc.)

Yes  No  N/A

**Comment** (if applicable): No neighbour representations have been received.

The proposed monopole and associated cabinets are set a sufficient separation distance to neighbouring properties and as such it is not considered that the development would result in a detrimental impact on privacy, outlook and light.

**Would the development provide / retain sufficient parking?**

Yes  No  N/A

**Comment** (if applicable):

**Any other issues**

*ICNIRP Declaration*

The application is accompanied by an ICNIRP declaration to confirm that the installation will conform to the guidelines set out by ICNIRP.

**Conclusion**

Subject to the suggested condition, the proposed development is considered to be in accordance with the Welwyn Hatfield District Plan; the Emerging Local Plan; and the National Planning Policy Framework.

**Conditions:**

1. The development hereby permitted shall be removed within 2 months from the date it is no longer required for telecommunication purposes.

REASON: In the interests of visual amenity in accordance with Policies D1, D2 and R21 of the Welwyn Hatfield District Plan 2005 and the National Planning Policy Framework 2021.

#### DRAWING NUMBERS

2. The development/works shall not be started and completed other than in accordance with the approved plans and details:

<b>Plan Number</b>	<b>Revision Number</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Received Date</b>
100	B	Site location plan	10 March 2022
200	B	Existing site plan	10 March 2022
201	B	Proposed site plan	10 March 2022
300	B	Existing site elevation	10 March 2022
301	B	Proposed site elevation	10 March 2022

REASON: To ensure that the development is carried out in accordance with the approved plans and details.

#### 1. POSITIVE AND PROACTIVE STATEMENT

The decision has been made taking into account, where practicable and appropriate the requirements of paragraph 38 of the National Planning Policy Framework and material planning considerations do not justify a decision contrary to the development plan (see Officer's report which can be viewed on the Council's website or inspected at these offices).

#### **Informatives:**

1. This permission does not convey any consent which may be required under any legislation other than the Town and Country Planning Acts. Any permission required under the Building Regulations or under any other Act, must be obtained from the relevant authority or body e.g. Fire Officer, Health and Safety Executive, Environment Agency (water interest etc.) Neither does this permission negate or override any private covenants or legal interest (easements or wayleaves) which may affect the land.
2. The granting of this permission does not convey or imply any consent to build upon or access from any land not within the ownership of the applicant.
3. Before works commence the applicant will need to apply to the Highway Authority to obtain their permission and requirements. Further information is available via the website <http://www.hertsdirect.org/services/transtreets/highways/> or by telephoning 0300 1234047.
4. Noise Control
  1. The best practicable means, as defined in section 72 of the Control of Pollution Act 1974, to reduce noise to a minimum shall be employed at all times
  2. All plant and machinery in use shall be properly silenced and maintained in

accordance with the manufacturers' instructions

3. All compressors shall be sound reduced models, fitted with properly lined and sealed acoustic covers, which shall be kept closed whenever the machines are in use. All ancillary pneumatic percussive tools shall be fitted with mufflers or silencers of the type recommended by the manufactures.
4. All machines in intermittent use shall be shut down during intervening periods between work, or throttled down to a minimum. Noise emitting equipment, which is required to operate continuously, shall be housed in suitable acoustic enclosures.
5. Items of plant and equipment shall be maintained in good condition so that extraneous noise from mechanical vibration, squeaking or creaking is reduced to a minimum.
6. All pile driving shall be carried out by a recognised noise reducing system.
7. Where practical, rotary drills and bursters, actuated by hydraulic or electric power shall be used for excavating hard material
8. In general, equipment for breaking concrete and the like, shall be hydraulically actuated.
9. 'BS 5228 Noise Control on Construction Sites' should be referred to for guidance in respect of all work carried out by the developer, their main contractor and any sub contractors.
10. Any emergency deviation from these conditions shall be notified to the Council without delay
11. Any planned deviations from these conditions for special technical reasons, shall be negotiated with Council at least 14 days prior to the commencement of the specific work.
12. Permissible noise levels are not specified at this stage.

#### Dust control

1. All efforts shall be made to reduce dust generation to a minimum.
  2. Stock piles of materials for use on the site or disposal, that are likely to generate dust, shall be sited so as to minimise any nuisance to residents or neighbouring businesses. Materials for disposal shall be moved off site as quickly as possible.
  3. Water sprays shall be used, as and when necessary, to reduce dust from particularly "dusty" activities or stock piles
5. Any damage to the grass verges caused by the development/works hereby approved is the responsibility of the applicant and must be re-instated to their original condition, within one month of the completion of the development/works. If damage to the verges are not repaired then the Council and/or Highway Authority will take appropriate enforcement action to remedy any harm caused.
6. In addition, and separate to your planning permission, for the majority of schemes, you are required by law to appoint a building regulator who will inspect your property at various stages during the course of your building project. This is to ensure it is compliant with the Building Regulations and the Building Act 1984.

The checks the building regulator will carry out include, but are not limited to, the structure, foundations, fire precautions and escape routes, electrical and plumbing compliance and other issues such as drainage and insulation. The objective of these checks is to ensure that your building is safe to live in, accessible and environmentally sustainable.

Once all build stages are checked and the works are finished, a Completion Certificate is issued confirming that these objectives have been met. You will also need the Completion Certificate, should you sell the property, as it will confirm to future owners that the work has been carried out in compliance with the

Regulations.

As the owner of the property, you are responsible for Building Regulations compliance so we would urge you to decide which regulator to use, as opposed to leaving your builder or architect to make the choice. This is so that you can be sure the building regulator is truly independent and working to protect you from any breach or omission during the works.

Hertfordshire Building Control Limited are a Company wholly owned by eight local authorities in Hertfordshire including Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council. Please contact them on 01438 879990 or at [buildingcontrol@hertfordshirebc.co.uk](mailto:buildingcontrol@hertfordshirebc.co.uk) to discuss the process and all that is involved. Or alternatively refer to the Homeowner Information section on their website at [www.hertfordshirebc.co.uk](http://www.hertfordshirebc.co.uk)

**Determined By:**

Mr Mark Peacock  
21 April 2022