

HAWKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

PLANNING COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING OF HELD
THURSDAY 23RD AUGUST 2018 AT 7.00PM IN
HAWKLEY PARISH HALL

Draft

PRESENT: Geoff Brighton; Jo Humphrey; Jilly Caesar.

Also David Caukill.

10 residents were present.

Sue Harwood (Clerk) was in attendance.

1) Apologies

None.

2) Representations from members of the public

Several people articulated their objections to the first application on the agenda.

3) Declarations of Interest

None declared

4) Minutes of meeting of 13^h August 2018

These were accepted and signed as a true record of the meeting.

5) Planning Applications:

Telecommunications Mast, Uplands Lane Hawkley

SDNP/18/04075/PA16

Prior notification of proposed development by telecommunications code system operators- proposed base station

The chairman began by noting that in addition to the relatively large number of residents attending the meeting, a high number of emails and phone calls had also been received from concerned residents. Most of these were in favour of the presence of a phone mast in principle, but were strongly against the proposed location.

Objection.

The parish council strenuously objects to such use of this important junction for two main reasons:

1. The mast would be a highly prominent eyesore. This is a lovely site in the middle of the parish, next to one of the parish's main ponds and surrounded by the Hangers in the middle distance. The stark, visual intrusion in an otherwise stunningly beautiful rural landscape would stand out from several places around the village as well as from far further afield, interrupting iconic as well as historically important vistas. The proposal takes no account of the site's very prominent location in the South Downs National Park.
2. The mast and associated paraphernalia would constitute a road safety hazard. Visibility is compromised at this junction, particularly when emerging from Uplands Lane and particularly at this time of year. This should be immediately apparent to anyone visiting the site for the first time. The placement of four such solid obstacles close to this junction could potentially make the outcome of a car accident at this site much worse.

The proposal presumably achieves the operators' coverage targets at an acceptable cost and relies on microwave transmission for call transport. However, Openreach is

presently installing a high-speed fibre broadband network in the village. We question whether there might be another technical solution which can harness broadband, eliminating the microwave dishes and perhaps using one or more shorter masts?

The parish council is very disappointed not to have been consulted about this matter before now. There are other potential sites around the village which the parish council believes would be far more suitable and yet on the face of it have not even been considered, perhaps due to an absence of local knowledge/ input. For example, there is no screening around the proposed site. Many such masts are located in woodland so the column is screened from view – with just the aerials protruding above the tree line. There are a number of sites around the village where this might be accomplished.

Accordingly, the Parish Council objects to this proposed location. However, we do welcome the proposed improvement in mobile coverage and would be pleased to work with the applicant and the SDNP Landscape Officer to identify an alternative location which meets the operator's technological requirements, has no traffic safety ramifications and, of paramount importance, with strictly minimal landscape impact, all the time providing easy access for maintenance.

Froggats, Snailing Lane Hawkley Liss Hampshire GU33 6HQ

SDNP/18/04266/LDE

Lawful development certificate for an existing use or operation or activity including those in breach of a planning condition - Use of single family dwelling (C3) without restriction of agricultural occupancy condition

No objection.

The meeting closed at 8.20pm.

Chairman

Date