

3/22/1017/TEL Installation of a 15m monopole tower to support antenna, associated radio equipment housing and ancillary development.

Land at Beane Road and Millmead Way, Hertford, Hertfordshire

1. The site proposed for the mast and radio equipment is mentioned in the Neighbourhood Plan on page 14 4.8 and is part of an area designated as Local Green Space LGS3.
2. "This park is adjacent to 107 homes on the Millmead Estate and is used for walking, cycling and ball games. It has two play areas and is part of the cycle route from North Road to Hartham. Dense tree planting serves as a buffer from the noise of Hertford North station and the busy Lower Bengoe roads. The River Beane runs through the park and the semi-natural areas attract a range of wildlife.
3. The highway land next to the River Beane (adjoining Cedar Court) and the former railway embankment land adjoining Beane Road, are included in the designation to prevent encroachment from development, and to safeguard wildlife habitat."
4. For this reason a prominent mast of 15m in height would contravene the policy of non development on Local Green Space. Furthermore, policy HBN1 states that "Development within these areas will only be permitted where exceptional circumstances can be demonstrated". The Neighbourhood Plan does not consider that "exceptional circumstances" needed to justify development on this site have been illustrated. We believe that existing infrastructure could be used to site new equipment and the land within LGS3 is not appropriate for the siting of a new antenna.
5. Furthermore, the site is sensitive because it is opposite Beane Marsh which is Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trusts newest nature reserve and the siting here could endanger or cause disturbance to migrating wildlife as Millmead park is a wildlife corridor linking areas along the river Beane.
6. Beane Marsh also has protected views and the addition of a large mast would detract from these views.
7. The proposed site is also part of the broader flood plane and any development which could disturb the nearby and internationally important chalk stream (The river Beane) should only take place if it is absolutely necessary and even then with the greatest of care.
8. We also consider that the mast would be an ugly addition to an otherwise tranquil and much loved area of parkland and look out of place in this site.
9. For these reasons we wish to strongly object to the proposal and we hope that the planning authority refuses this application

Chair

Bengoe Neighbourhood Area Plan