

# Report to Planning Committee

### **29 November 2023**

| Application Reference   | PD/22/02530   |
|-------------------------|---|
| Application Received    | 27 September 2023.  |
| Application Description | Proposed replacement of existing lattice tower with an 25.0m high swann CS5S lattice tower with 12 No. antennas, 2 No. GPS modules, 4 No. 300 dishes, 2 No. cabinets, 2 No. racks, 2 No. future racks and associated ancillary works. |
| Application Address     | Telecommunication Mast 1694 Haden Park Road Cradley Heath   |
| Applicant               | Cornerstone Hive 2 1530 Arlington Business Park Theale RG7 4SA.   |
| Ward                    | Cradley Heath & Old Hill.   |
| Contact Officer         | Name: Anjan Dey <u>anjan_dey@sandwell.gov.uk</u>  |

### 1 Recommendations

1.1 Prior Approval is granted in respect of siting and appearance.



















#### 2 Reasons for Recommendations

- 2.1 The proposed monopole is appropriate in scale and the proposed siting and appearance is considered to be acceptable and would not have a significant impact on public visual amenity.
- 3 How does this deliver objectives of the Corporate Plan?



A connected and accessible Sandwell – the proposal meets the Councils aspirations to improve digital infrastructure within the Borough

#### 4 Context

- 4.1 This application is being reported to your Planning Committee because it has generated a number of neighbour objections.
- 4.2 To assist members with site context, a link to Google Maps is provided below:

Haden Park Road and Haden Hill Park, Cradley Heath

# 5 Key Considerations

- 5.1 The site is Council owned and is unallocated within the development plan.
- 5.2 The material planning considerations which are relevant to this application are:-

Government policy (NPPF) Local policy Public visual amenity



















#### 6. The Application Site

6.1 This site is the existing location of a lattice telecoms tower, and ancillary equipment, that is located at the north-western side of Haden Hill Park adjacent to the cricket ground and bowling green. Haden Hill Park is surrounded by residential properties.

# 7. Planning History

7.1 Relevant planning applicant application are as follows:

| DC/31609    | Installation of a radio mast | Grant permission with |
|-------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|
|             | and ancillary radio          | conditions.           |
|             | equipment building.          | 28.07.1995.           |
|             |                              |                       |
| DC/04/43112 | Proposed replacement of      | Grant permission with |
|             | 15m telecommunications       | conditions.           |
|             | monopole with a 20m          | 10.09.2004.           |
|             | lattice tower.               |                       |
|             |                              |                       |

# 8. Application Details

8.1 This application is seeking prior approval for the siting and appearance for the proposed replacement of existing 20m lattice tower with a 25m high swann CS5S lattice tower with 12 No. antennas, 2 No. GPS modules, 4 No. 300 dishes, 2 No. cabinets, 2 No. racks, 2 No. future racks and associated ancillary works. The existing 20 metre high tower has been in situ since 2004. Amended plans were received to show a green finish to the lattice tower.

The application has been made under the provisions of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended) – Schedule 2, Part 16, Class A.



















#### 9. Publicity

9.1 The application has been publicised by neighbour notification letter as well as site notices. Four objections have been submitted.

#### 9.2 **Objections**

Objections have been received on the following grounds:

- i. The monopole with increased height would be excessively high and unduly prominent;
- ii. It is and increasingly would be detrimental to Haden Hill House which is located nearby.

Non Material objections have been raised regarding devaluation of property and the monopole is a risk to public health the latter is addressed in paragraph 11.2 and other considerations 13.2.

These objections will be addressed in section 13 (Material considerations).

# 9.4 Support

Following neighbour consultation 3 representations in support have been received. A member of the adjacent Old Hill Cricket Club supports the proposal and requested that the lattice tower had a green finish so that it blends in with surrounding trees. Amended plans were received to show a green finish as such.

# 10. Consultee responses

Highways has no objections to the proposal as the installation is clear of the highway and would not affect parking provision for the adjacent cricket club.



















#### 11. **National Planning Policy**

- 11.1 National Planning Policy Framework promotes sustainable development but states that local circumstances should be taken into account to reflect the character, needs and opportunities for each area.
- 11.2 With reference to health concerns of the proposal. Paragraph 116 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) states "Local planning authorities must determine applications on planning grounds only. They should not seek to prevent competition between different operators, question the need for an electronic communications system, or set health safeguards different from the International Commission guidelines for public exposure".

#### **12. Local Planning Policy**

- 12.1 The following polices of the council's Development Plan are relevant:
  - SAD TEL 1 Telecommunication Antenna and Masts
- 12.2 SAD TEL 1 (Telecommunications Antenna and Masts) of the Site allocations and Delivery Plan Document requires equipment to be sympathetically designed to minimise the impact of the development on amenity. The Mast replaces an existing, being only 5 metres higher and has a green finish to complement the surrounding trees.

#### 13. **Material Considerations**

13.1 The material considerations relating to government policy (NPPF) and proposals within the Development Plan have been referred to above in Sections 11 and 12. With regards to the other considerations these are highlighted below:





















#### 13.2 Public Visual Amenity

These monopoles are of a significant height by their nature, however it is considered that the proposed increase in height of 5 metres, in addition to the existing twenty, is not considered to be significant. It is considered that that the lattice tower is over 87 metres away from the rear elevations of the nearest properties along Haden Hill Road. Furthermore, the mast is located to the north-east of those dwellings and is not directly in view. The cricket ground club house is also located directly in front of the mast. The natural screening (trees) at the rear of the proposed location combined with the green finish will also reduce its visual impact.

There is a substantial area of existing trees between the site and Haden Hill House, which is some distance away, and it is my view that the upgraded lattice tower would not detrimentally impact the setting and character of Haden Hill House

#### 13.2 Other considerations - health

As indicated in paragraph 11.2 above health considerations are not material planning decisions for proposed telecommunications mast. The applicant is only required to provide an ICNIRP (International Commission on Non-Ironizing Radiation Protection) Certificate. The appropriate ICNIRP Certificate has been submitted confirming the proposal has been designed to be in full compliance with the requirement of the radio frequency (RF) public exposure guidelines set out by ICNIRP. As the proposal complies with the ICNIRP, the proposal is in compliance with the NPPF and therefore health grounds are not material to the determination of this application.

# 14 Alternative Options

14.1 Refusal of application is an option if there are material planning reasons for doing so. In this instance it is considered that the proposal is appropriate in appearance and siting due to its distance from residential



















properties and the surrounding trees within the setting of Haden Hill Park.

# 15 Implications

| Resources:       | When a planning application is refused the applicant has a right of appeal to the Planning Inspectorate, and they can make a claim for costs against the Council. |
|------------------|---|
| Legal and        | This application is submitted under the Town and  |
| Governance:      | Country Planning Act 1990.  |
| Risk:            | None.   |
| <b>Equality:</b> | There are no equality issues arising from this  |
|                  | proposal and therefore an equality impact   |
|                  | assessment has not been carried out.  |
| Health and       | Refer to sections 2.1 and 11.   |
| Wellbeing:       |   |
| Social Value     | None.   |

# 16. Appendices

Location Plan. 100 D

Proposed planning layout. 201 D Proposed elevations. 301 REV E



























