

Chairman - Councillor R M Sutherland

Present (for all or part of the meeting):-

Councillors:

B M Cross	W J Kemp
M G Dodson	A Nixon
A P Edgeller	A N Pearce
A S Harp	M Phillips
J Hood	

Officers in attendance:-

Mr J Holmes	-	Development Manager
Mr S Turner	-	Legal Services Manager
Mr A Bailey	-	Scrutiny Officer

PC96 Declarations of Members Interests/Lobbying

Councillor M G Dodson indicated that he would be speaking as the Walton Ward Member in respect of Application Number 20/32256/PTEL and would not be voting on this part of the meeting.

Councillor M G Dodson left the meeting at this point as a voting Member of the Committee.

PC97 Application 20/32256/PTEL - Proposed upgrade of existing telecommunications base station - Water Tower, Common Lane, Meir Heath, Stoke On Trent

(Recommendation grant Prior Approval for the siting and appearance of the development subject to conditions).

Considered the report of the Head of Development regarding this matter.

The Development Manager reported upon an amendment to the report relating to the maximum height of the antennas.

Public speaking on the matter was as follows:-

Mr G Boulton raised the following points during his objection to the proposal:-

- Spoke on behalf of himself and the local community on the basis of amenity
- Expressed concern over the safety aspects and anxiety over the cumulative effects of existing and proposed antennae as no studies categorically state that they were safe
- Concern that if the antenna were placed lower it would risk the existing equipment
- However, placing the antennas higher caused increased visual impact
- Residents had complained about the constant buzzing from the cooling units, which was noticed more at night
- The closest residents to the equipment were those classed as more vulnerable
- Concern over the implications of more equipment being added at a later date
- The access to the site was very narrow and the large vehicles needed to maintain the masts would need to mount the pavement
- Children used the road to get to the nearby school nearby and there was pavement on only one side of the road.
- Requested the Committee to reject the application

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor M G Dodson, Fulford Ward Member, addressed the Committee and raised the following issues:-

- Referred to various plans and photographs in order to demonstrate the proximity of nearby schools, houses, plantation and size of the proposed antennas
- Described the massing effect of the proposal of the 1930's tower
- The proposed antennas were very close to residential areas close the Borough boundary
- Stoke-on-Trent City Council would not allow such proposals
- Requested the Committee to refuse the application on visual amenity grounds

The Committee discussed the application and raised a number of issues, including:-

- Clarification over:-
 - Permitted Development Rights
 - Location of the equipment cabinets
 - Noise nuisance was not a reason for refusal
 - The maximum height levels of the proposed antennas
- Public Health had confirmed that an objection on public health grounds could not be sustained
- There was already a base station in the location
- Siting and appearance had been fully covered in the report
- Concerns over siting and appearance

In response, the Development Manager confirmed that this was not a full planning application and was an application for Prior approval which only related to siting and appearance of the development. He also clarified that this was not a new development and therefore more likely to be approved on appeal.

The Legal Services Manager confirmed that a Council would not be able to impose a blanket ban on all such applications as this would be against the National Planning Policy Framework. He also confirmed that there were no further details to the court case mentioned during the neighbour consultations.

It was subsequently moved by Councillor A S Harp and seconded by Councillor A Nixon that Application Number 20/32256/PTEL be granted Prior Approval for the siting and appearance of the development, subject to the Conditions as set out in the report of the Head of Development.

On being put to the vote the proposal was declared to be carried.

RESOLVED:- that planning Application Number 20/32256/PTEL be granted Prior Approval for the siting and appearance of the development, subject to the Conditions as set out in the report of the Head of Development.

Councillor M G Dodson re-joined the meeting as a voting Member of the Committee.

PC98 Planning Appeals

Considered the report of the Head of Development (V1 22/5/2020).

Notification of the following appeal decisions had been received:-

App No	Location	Proposal
19/31191/HOU Appeal Dismissed	Victoria House Bromstead Common Lane Bromstead Heath	Detached Garage/Workshop with storage above

PC99 LISTBL/00089/EN20– Flat 61, The Moorings, Stafford Street Stone

Considered the report of the Head of Development and the Head of Law and Administration (V1 21/05/20) in relation to the issuing of a Listed Building Enforcement Notice in respect of the installation of brown UPVC windows and French doors at Flat 61, The Moorings, Stafford Street, Stone, a grade II listed building without the benefit of listed building consent.

On being put to the vote, the proposal was declared to be carried.

RESOLVED:- that appropriate action be authorised to include all steps including the instigation of court proceedings and any work required to secure the removal of the unauthorised windows and French door and their replacement with appropriately designed and fashioned windows and French doors.

CHAIRMAN