

NEW FRANKLEY IN BIRMINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Planning, Environmental, Highways and Public Transport Committee held at the Parish Council Offices, 12 Arden Road, Frankley on Tuesday, 5 September 2006 at 1930 hours.

Present

Councillor Ian Bruckshaw (in the Chair)

Councillors Linda Banks, Eric Carter, Gareth Griffiths, Geoffrey Stephenson, Joanna Walker and Geoffrey Stephenson

Also in Attendance Councillor Bedser (City Council) and Councillor Hollis (Parish Council)

APPOINTMENT OF THE MEMBERS AND CHAIRPERSON OF THE COMMITTEE

- 130 Resolution No. 1335 of the Parish Council appointing Councillors Linda Banks, Ian Bruckshaw, Geoffrey Stephenson, Joanna Walker and Geoffrey Williams to serve on the Committee together with the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the Council as ex-officio members and appointing Councillor Bruckshaw as Chairperson of the Committee was noted.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

- 131 The following Terms of Reference of the Committee were noted –
(interleaved document no. 1)

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were none.

MINUTES

- 132 RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Planning, Environmental, Highways and Public Transport Committee held on 5 July 2004, having previously been circulated, were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

PLANNING APPLICATION

S/05255/06/NOT

Arden Road, Opposite Arden Business Park, Frankley Birmingham B45

Installation of 12 metre high imitation lighting column supporting 2 no. antennae with equipment cabinets and ancillary works

The following supporting statement on behalf of the applicant was submitted –

(interleaved document no. 2)

The Clerk advised that the reasons agreed by the Parish Council in objecting to the previous application were that the long term effects of the pulsed radiation were unknown; the siting of the mast would have an unacceptable visual impact on the area; the proposed arrangement for the maintenance of the mast involved a maintenance vehicle to be parked on the crown of the bend which was felt to be a danger to traffic; and, given the ongoing discussion relating to the possible development of the adjacent site, no decision on the application should be made until the future of the site was known. Additionally, the application had been refused by the City Council because it was felt that the mast and ancillary equipment would be detrimental to the surrounding build environment due to its height, its prominent position and design.

In the current application, the mast and equipment cabinets had been moved round into the lay-by on Arden Road and the cabinets were to be installed so as to be partially screened by the existing vegetation whilst the mast would be camouflaged as a lamp-post.

During the ensuing lengthy discussion it was agreed that whilst there was public concern regarding the unknown long term effect of pulsed radiation, when determining the application the Government's guidelines which the Planning Committee had to adhere to did not permit such concerns to be taken into account. It was also noted that by relocating the mast and cabinets in the lay-by, the Council's original concern regarding the traffic hazard caused by maintenance vehicles had been addressed. However, even though the applicant had taken steps to screen the cabinets, it was still considered that the installation would be a visual intrusion to the area as well as being a target for vandals and graffiti. Additionally, it was still felt that determination of the application should be deferred until such time as the future of the adjacent sites had been established. There was concern that, given the number of applications from different operators for 3rd Generation masts which had recently been or were to be submitted, despite the requirement that operators share masts wherever possible, that requirement would be ignored and there would be a proliferation of telecommunication masts on Frankley.

Accordingly it was –

- 133 RESOLVED: That the Planning Committee be advised that this Parish Council objects to the proposed installation of a telecommunications mast and ancillary cabinets on Arden Road, Frankley on the following grounds –
- The proposed mast and ancillary equipment, due to its siting in a prominent position in the street scene would have an unacceptable visual impact on the area;

- Determination of the application should be deferred until such time as the future of the adjacent development site has been established.

NOTIFICATION OF APPEAL

Council Reference S/07588/05/NOT

Appeal by Vodafone

Frogmill Road, Highway verge adjacent to Frankley Industrial Estate, Frankley

12 metre high timber telegraph pole with 3 no. antennae and equipment cabinets and ancillary equipment

The Clerk advised that the Council had previously objected to the application on the grounds that it was felt that the siting of the installation was inappropriate and the risk of vandalism due to the mast being made of wood. The City Council had subsequently considered the application and determined that it be refused due to its design and siting in a prominent position in the street scene which would have an unacceptable impact on the visual amenity of the area.

Following a brief discussion it was agreed to make representations to the Planning Inspector along the grounds of the Council's original objections.

It was therefore –

- 134 RESOLVED: That a submission be made to the Planning Inspectorate reiterating the Council's objections to the installation of a telecommunications mast with ancillary equipment on the Highway verge adjacent to Tay Road and supporting the decision of the City Council in refusing the application.

The meeting end at 1954 hours

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Chairperson