

BARCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Barcombe Parish Council Planning Meeting held on Wednesday 8th September 2021.

Attendees: Cllrs Arbenz, Cornwell, Holman, Mills, Pack, Skan, Stewart, Parsons: and five members of the public.

MINUTES

1. **Apologies:** Cllrs Smith, Stroude.

2. **Declarations of Interest:** None.

Case No: LW/21/0627

Location: Street Record, Oak Tree, Barcombe Cross

Proposal: Proposed 15.0m Phase 8 Monopole CW wrap-round cabinet at base and associated ancillary works.

Cllr Pack had circulated a summary of key points to consider and the applicable documentation surrounding the installation of masts.

The Parish Council is negative towards this application.

A general overarching concern is that this mast will, potentially, support only a single communications operator. If a single-operator mast is installed anywhere within the village it could lead to multiple requests from other operators.

The following anomalies and errors in the application and accompanying documents are highlighted:

- The references to street lighting in the village is not relevant to Barcombe Cross.
- The specification that locations in 'close proximity' to schools should be avoided. The Parish Council request clarification on the definition of 'close proximity', and whether nurseries and playgroups should be considered when masts are located.
- The reference to a mast serving a radius of 50 metres within the technical justification. Is this a typing error?
- No mention of the village Conservation Area in the application.

The feeling of both the Councillors and the wider community present at the meeting was that the easy location has been selected to the detriment of immediate neighbours and the village overall. Alternative locations must be explored, drawing on local knowledge and minimising visual impact on the Conservation Area.

The Parish Council objects on the following grounds:

- A mast would be out of character for the suggested location. A mast here would have an excessive impact on the visual amenity. The proposed mast location is within the Conservation Area: something not mentioned in the application. Additionally, the setting of Barcombe Place (which 'contributes significantly' to the appearance of the Conservation Area) will be impacted by the construction of a mast.
- Concerns over potential impact of 5G on public health of the community in a residential area.

The Parish Council will request an onsite meeting with representatives from ESCC Highways and Lewes District Council.

Additionally, the Parish Council asks LDC's Planning Department to review both the proposed location and other alternatives within the village, and ESCC's Environmental Health Department to review the application.

Concerns were raised about work starting on the site when no formal permission has been received.

3. **Application: LW/21/0543:** Location: Gipps Farmhouse, Gipps Farm, Spithurst Road, Barcombe East Sussex BN8 5EH

Proposal: To re-open an old farm track and access onto the Spithurst Road, Barcombe; to resurface the track and link it up to an existing farm track, and to create car parking spaces off the track to serve the Sussex Christmas Barn.

The Parish Council is **neutral** towards this application.

No concerns have been raised by members of the public. The Parish Council is aware that there were complaints about on-road parking last Christmas, a matter which this application should address.

4. **Any other Business:** None.