

Code No. and Date Received	Name and Address of Applicant	Description and Location of Proposed Development
17/0287/FULL 13.04.2017	CTIL & Vodafone Ltd C/o Clarke Telecom Ms D Perry Unit E Madison Place Manchester M40 5AG	Install a 17.5m monopole, supporting 3 no antenna, 2 no dishes, together with associated ground based equipment cabinets and ancillary development Land At Nine Mile Point Industrial Estate Cwmfelinfach Newport

APPLICATION TYPE: Full Application

SITE AND DEVELOPMENT

Location: The application site is located at Nine Mile Point, Cwmfelinfach.

Site description: Located at the edge of Nine Mile Point Industrial Estate.

Development: The application seeks planning permission to erect a 17.5 monopole, supporting 3 antennas and 2 transmission dishes, together with associated ground based cabinets and ancillary development.

Dimensions: The proposed mast measures 17.5 metres in height, the 2 transmission dishes measure 0.3 metres in diameter and are located 18.3 metres above the ground and the two supporting antennae measure 2.0 metres in height and are to be located 15.5 metres above the ground.

The proposed hardstanding for which the associated base cabinets are to be sited on measures 3.7 metres in width by 3.7 metres in depth and is enclosed by 2.1 metre high green palisade fencing.

Materials: Not Applicable.

Ancillary development, e.g. parking: None is proposed.

PLANNING HISTORY 2005 TO PRESENT

None.

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POLICY

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Site Allocation: The application site is located within settlement limits.

Policies: CW2 (Amenity) and CW3 (Design Considerations: Highways).

NATIONAL POLICY Planning Policy Wales Edition 9 (November 2016), TAN 12: Design (March 2016), TAN 19: Telecommunications (2002) and TAN 23: Economic Development (2014).

Chapter 12.11.1 of Planning Policy Wales states:

- "The Welsh Government recognises that widespread access to affordable, secure telecommunications infrastructure is important to citizens and businesses across Wales. It is important that the telecommunications infrastructure in Wales is able to meet this challenge, helping to build a thriving and prosperous Welsh economy"

Chapter 12.3.6 of Planning Policy Wales states:

- "Authorities should not question the need for the telecommunications system that the proposed development is to support, nor seek to prevent competition between different operators. The aim should be for the Authorities and operators to work together to find optimum solutions to development requirements..."

Chapter 12.13.8 of Planning Policy Wales states:

With regard to the health implications of proposed development, it is the Welsh Government's view that, if the development meets the International Commission on Non-Ionising Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) guidelines as expressed in the EU Council Recommendation of 12 July 1999 on the limitation of exposure of the general public to electromagnetic fields (as recommended by the report of the Independent Expert Group on Mobile Phones (the Stewart Report) on a precautionary basis), it should not be necessary for a Local Planning Authority in processing an application for planning permission or prior approval, to consider further the health aspects and concerns about them. All new base stations are expected to meet the ICNIRP guidelines.

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Local Planning Authorities are encouraged to respond positively to telecommunications development proposals, while taking account of the advice on the protection of the environment. Authorities should not question the need for the telecommunications system that the proposed development is to support, nor seek to prevent competition between different operators. The aim should be for Local Planning Authorities and operators to work together to find optimum solutions to development requirements.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Did the application have to be screened for an EIA? No.

Was an EIA required? Not Applicable.

COAL MINING LEGACY

Is the site within an area where there are mining legacy issues? The application site is located within an area where no coal mining report is required, however standing advice will be provided.

CONSULTATION

Transportation Engineering Manager - No objection.

Head Of Public Protection - This department has no adverse comments in respect of the above planning application, the most recent report in respect of health concerns related to mobile phone base stations produced by the Independent Expert group on Mobile Phones and released on 11/05/2000 concluded that:-

- "the balance of evidence to date suggests that exposure to RF radiation below NRPB and ICNIRP guidelines do not cause adverse health effects to the general population"

Joint Radio Company Limited - No objection.

Cadw - The proposed mast will not have any impact on the setting of scheduled monument Twyn-Yr-Oerfel Round Barrows MM070.

Senior Engineer (Land Drainage) - No objection subject to the applicant submitting a scheme for land and surface water drainage within the site.

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ADVERTISEMENT

Extent of advertisement: A site notice was displayed near the application site and fifty neighbours were consulted by way of letter.

Response: One letter of representation has been received from the local ward member.

Summary of observations: The following concerns have been raised:

1. There have been lots of reports into environmental microwave radiation from mobile phone masts. Some reports suggest sleep disruption, headaches, tiredness, behavioural changes in children, epilepsy, nosebleeds and skin complaints. There are other researching that are ongoing suggesting that there may be link with human cancers.

2. Would there be any disruption to wildlife? Bat population? What would be the impact of radio frequencies and microwaves on wildlife? Just a quick look into this has shown some studies have seen a negative effect on the reproduction output of insects and birds in the vicinity of mobile phone masts. This could potentially have a large effect on wildlife and our neighbourhood?

3. Why have the developer chosen Nile mile point, and more importantly its specific location on the industrial site? Why does CCBC planning department support this structure, and in this specific location - why not at the end of the factory out of the way of people's sight lines?

4. What other sites have they looked at and the rational for turning them down?

5. Why have CCBC and the developer not considered placing it on the mountain where there is a signal mast, above Ynysddu Hywel?

6. Considering there are many mobile phone companies, eventually will they all want to place a mobile phone base in the valley, sharing resources is good for business (keeps costs low) and saves the environment.

7. Is it really needed?

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SECTION 17 CRIME AND DISORDER ACT

What is the likely effect of the determination of this application on the need for the Local Planning Authority to do all it reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder in its area?
There are no specific crime and disorder implications material to the determination of this application.

EU HABITATS DIRECTIVE

Does the development affect any protected wildlife species? The Council's Ecologist has confirmed that there are no ecological issues with the application site.

COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY

Is this development Community Infrastructure Levy liable? No the development is not CIL liable.

ANALYSIS

Policies: The application has been considered in accordance with national guidance, local plan policy and supplementary planning guidance. The reason for the proposed works is to allow Telefonica UK and Vodafone Limited to pool their communications infrastructure, maximise opportunities to consolidate the number of base stations and significantly reduce the environmental impact of network development.

The proposed mast and ancillary development are considered to be acceptable from a design perspective and there would be no detrimental impact on the amenity of neighbouring land uses. The application is accompanied with a declaration of conformity with ICNIRP public Exposure Guidelines and the health effects of the masts have been considered by Public Health and Protection. No objection has been raised on the basis of current guidance, as such the proposed works are considered to be acceptable in planning terms.

Comments from consultees: No objections have been raised.

Comments from public: The following concerns have been raised:

1. There have been lots of reports into environmental microwave radiation from mobile phone masts. Some reports suggest sleep disruption, headaches, tiredness, behavioural changes in children, epilepsy, nosebleeds and skin complaints. There are other researching that are ongoing suggesting that there may be link with human cancers.

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The scheme complies with the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) guidance on exposure to radio waves, therefore the proposed mast will be acceptable in terms of its impact on health.

2. Would there be any disruption to wildlife? Bat population? What would be the impact of radio frequencies and microwaves on wildlife? Just a quick look into this has shown some studies have seen a negative effect on the reproduction output of insects and birds in the vicinity of mobile phone masts. This could potentially have a large effect on wildlife and our neighbourhood?

The Council's Ecologist has raised no objection to the proposal.

3. Why have the developer chosen Nile mile point, and more importantly it's specific location on the industrial site? Why does CCBC planning department support this structure, and in this specific location - why not at the end of the factory out of the way of people's sight lines? The siting of a radio base station is largely dependent on the characteristics of the radio signals which they transmit.

The Local Planning Authority is not able to comment on behalf of the developer and can only consider whether the proposal in the location applied is acceptable in planning terms.

4. What other sites have they looked at and the rational for turning them down?

The Local Planning Authority is not able to comment on behalf of the developer.

5. Why have CCBC and the developer not considered placing it on the mountain where there is a signal mast, above Ynysddu Hywel?

The Local Planning Authority can only consider the details submitted as part of the application and not alternative locations.

6. Considering there are many mobile phone companies, eventually will they all want to place a mobile phone base in the valley, sharing resources is good for business (keeps costs low) and saves the environment.

The developer (Telefonica UK and Vodafone Limited) are sharing their communications infrastructure to maximise opportunities to consolidate the number of base stations and significantly reduce the environmental impact of network development.

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7. Is it really needed?

Telecommunication operators endeavour to upgrade apparatus on existing buildings, structures and masts, where possible. However, in spite of these efforts, there are likely to be instances where there is a need to install additional base stations to provide contiguous service. It is important to note that mobile and wireless devices can only work where there is a network of base stations, without such base stations, there will be no facility to use such devices.

Other material considerations: The development is acceptable in all other areas.

The duty to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, has been considered in accordance with the sustainable development principle, under section 3 of the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. In reaching the recommendation below, the ways of working set out at section 5 of that Act have been taken into account, and it is considered that the recommendation is consistent with the sustainable development principle as required by section 8 of that Act.

RECOMMENDATION that Permission be GRANTED

This permission is subject to the following condition(s)

- 01) The development hereby permitted shall be begun before the expiration of five years from the date of this permission.
REASON: To comply with the provisions of Section 91 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.
- 02) The development shall be carried out in accordance with the following approved plans and documents:
Dwg Rev A. Site Location Plan received on 29.03.2017.
Dwg Rev A. Proposed Site Plan received on 29.03.2017.
Dwg Rev B. Proposed Site Elevation received on 29.03.2017.
REASON: To ensure that the development is carried out only as approved by the Local Planning Authority.

Advisory Note(s)

The following policy(ies) of the Caerphilly County Borough Local Development Plan up to 2021 - Adopted November 2010 is/are relevant to the conditions of this permission: CW2 and CW3.

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Mature trees are potential bat roosts. All bat species and their roosts are protected by the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 and its amendment 2012, which transposes the EC Habitats Directive 1992 into UK legislation, and the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. If bats are discovered, then all works should stop immediately and the Countryside Council for Wales should be contacted for advice on any special precautions, and whether a licence is required, before continuing.

Please also be advised that works should not take place that will disturb nesting birds from March to July inclusive. All British birds (while nesting, building nests and sitting on eggs), their nests and eggs (with certain limited exceptions) are protected by law under Section 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. If birds are nesting on/in or within the vicinity of the proposed development, work should be undertaken outside the breeding season for birds to ensure their protection, i.e. works should only be undertaken between August and February. Further advice on the above can be sought from the local authority ecologists (01495 235253) or Natural Resources Wales (NRW) (029 20 772400).

The proposed development lies within a coal mining area which may contain unrecorded coal mining related hazards. If any coal mining feature is encountered during development, this should be reported immediately to the Coal Authority on 0345 762 6848.

Further information is also available on the Coal Authority website at:
www.gov.uk/government/organisations/the-coal-authority

