

Williams Acquisition Ltd

Our ref: BAR16961

Chief Planning Officer
Planning and Transportation Service Planning and Building Control
Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council
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Dear Sir or Madam

PRE-APPLICATION CONSULTATION – RADIO BASE STATION INSTALLATION AT BAR16961, FIELD END ROAD, GOLD THORPE, SOUTH YORKSHIRE, S63 9LX (NGR: E445940 N404368)

MBNL undertakes the management and network deployment of telecommunications sites on behalf of both EE (UK) Ltd and Hutchison 3G UK Limited. The proposal is for a new Hutchison 3G UK Limited column, in order to provide the latest 4G and new 5G technologies to this area of Barnsley.

As part of MBNL's continued network improvement program, there is a specific requirement for a new mast at the footway of Field End Road to ensure that the latest high quality 2G, 3G and 4G service provision continues to be provided in this area of Barnsley. The proposed new column will also ensure that new 5G coverage can also be provided at this location. This ensures that coverage and capacity requirements are maintained.

The proposed new mast has been sited and designed in order to provide 5G coverage and to support the existing mobile network. At present it is paramount that digital connectivity is supported and maintained throughout the country. In particular the current massive shift in user demand from city centres and places of work to residential areas and suburbs requires an improvement in coverage and capacity throughout the whole network. The current proposal therefore provides such additional capacity to the network whilst still promoting the improved 5G technology.

The proposed development is within the limits set out in Part 16 for permitted development with Prior Approval. The location enables the whole of the surrounding area to benefit from improved 5G network coverage and has been designed to be future proof, thus enabling other technologies to be deployed depending upon the demand required.

This letter therefore invites the Local Planning Authority and stakeholders, in accordance with planning policy guidance and Best Practice Commitments, to enter into pre-application discussions with regard to our preferred site option prior to a formal planning submission. Several steps in the site identification process have already been undertaken. The Local Planning Authority mast register and our records of other potential sites have been reviewed, the policies in the Development Plan have been taken into account and we have examined the inter-operator site sharing database.

Mobile telecoms networks are now ubiquitous throughout the UK. It is an expectation that an individual can connect and use their mobile phone whenever and wherever they are. With the advent of new technology, under the banner of 5G, further advances are proposed and Central Government has seen the telecoms industry, and in particular 5G, to be at the forefront of economic development.

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This new column will enable 5G coverage to be provided to this area of Barnsley. The Government recognises that widespread coverage of mobile connectivity is essential for people and businesses. That is why the Government is committed to extending mobile geographical coverage further across the UK, with continuous mobile connectivity provided to all major roads and to being a world leader in 5G. This will allow everyone in the country to benefit from the economic advantages of widespread mobile coverage.

As well as improved mobile signal, 5G networks are also crucial to drive productivity and growth across the sectors that local areas are focusing on through their emerging Local Industrial Strategies. Enabling and planning for 5G implementation is central to achieving the Government's objective to deliver prosperity at the local level and enable all places to share in the proceeds of growth.

5G service provision will bring faster, more responsive and reliable connections than ever before. More than any previous generation of mobile networks, it has the potential to improve the way people live, work and travel, and to deliver significant benefits to the economy and industry through the ability to connect more devices to the Internet at the same time, the 'Internet of Things'. This will enable communities to manage traffic flow and control energy usage, monitor patient health remotely, and increase productivity for business and farmers, all through the real-time management of data.

The demand for mobile data in the UK is increasing rapidly, and as households and businesses become increasingly reliant on mobile connectivity, the infrastructure must be in place to ensure supply does not become a constraint on future demand.

The new column will also meet the extra demands on the network in this area as more people use internet enabled handheld devices.

The preferred MBNL option is as follows:

BAR16961, FIELD END ROAD, GOLD THORPE, SOUTH YORKSHIRE, S63 9LX (NGR: E445940 N404368)

The proposal relates to the installation of a new monopole 20m in height supporting 6 no. antennas with a wrap around equipment cabinet at the base of the column, installation of 3 no. new equipment cabinets and ancillary development thereto. Proposed plans are enclosed for assistance.

The proposed height is essential in order to ensure the latest 4G and new 5G technologies are provided in and around this area of Barnsley. These latest technologies operate at higher frequency bands than older technologies such as 2G and 3G. The higher the frequency band the greater the radio signal is naturally weakened. This means that the effects of clutter are even more significant than for the provision of older technologies. As a result, a higher column is normally required to maintain the same coverage footprint. The latest 4G technology and new 5G service provision carry higher capacity and data speeds to the user, this leads to such antennas having to be positioned at a higher height than more standard antennae and in turn a taller antenna height for 5G service provision.

Alternative site options considered and rejected are as follows:

Site	Site Name, Address, NGR, Site Type	Reason for not Choosing
GF	SW on south side of Barnsley Road, S63 9AE (NGR: E445910 N404307)	An installation at this location is considered to be too prominent in the streetscene and other alternatives exist which are more appropriate in order to deliver the required coverage to the target area. This site has therefore been discounted for this reason.

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GF	SW on east end of Barnsley Road, S63 9AA (NGR: E446011 N404325)	The footway at this location is too narrow to accommodate the operator's equipment. As such, it would lead to highway safety issues. A site in this location has therefore been discounted for this reason.
GF	SW on west end of Barnsley Road, S63 9AE (NGR: E445850 N404297)	The footway at this location is too narrow to accommodate the operator's equipment. As such, it would lead to highway safety issues. A site in this location has therefore been discounted for this reason.
GF	SW of South Yorks Car Centre, S63 9AF (NGR: E445928 N404324)	It is not possible to install a street furniture installation at this location due to unresolvable underground services in order to deliver the required level of coverage to the target area. This site has therefore been discounted for this reason.
GF	SW on Gosling Gate Road, S63 9LU (NGR: E446026 N404407)	An installation at this location is considered to be too prominent in the streetscene and other alternatives exist which are more appropriate in order to deliver the required coverage to the target area. This site has therefore been discounted for this reason.
GF	SW to northern end of Fields End Road	The footway at this location is too narrow to accommodate the operator's equipment. As such, it would lead to highway safety issues. A site in this location has therefore been discounted for this reason.

The proposal for this MBNL site has been designed within International Commission on Non-Ionising Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) public exposure guidelines. A certificate of ICNIRP compliance will be included within the planning submission.

We look forward receiving any comments you have within 14 days of this letter.

Yours faithfully



Dianne Perry MRTPI AssocRICS
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