Our ref: PL21-01/Ivybridge RFC

Ivybridge Town Council
Town Hall
Erme Court
Leonard Road
Ivybridge
Devon
PL21 0SZ

Via Email: townhall@ivybridge.gov.uk

28th July 2023

Dear Sir/Madam,

PROPOSED TELECOMMUNICATIONS INSTALLATION AT IVYBRIDGE RFC, GODWELL LANE, NORTH FILHAM, SOUTH HAMS, PLYMOUTH, PL21 0FH. NGR: 265736E, 056012N.

We act for Atlas Tower Group who intend to install a telecommunications base station at the above location.

Atlas Tower Group wish to erect a new site at this location to facilitate additional coverage and capacity requirements, incorporating new technologies. The NPPF sets out the Government's general overview regarding supporting high quality communications infrastructure, recognising that advanced, high-quality communications infrastructure is essential for sustainable economic growth.

Base stations use radio signals to connect mobile devices and phones to the network, enabling to send and receive; calls, texts, emails, pictures, web, TV and downloads. Without base stations, mobile devices and phones will not work.

Many other everyday items also use radio signals to send and receive information, such as televisions and radio broadcasting equipment and two-way radio communications. Base stations are connected to each other and telephone exchange buildings by cables or wireless technology such as microwave dishes, to create the network. The area each base station covers is called a "cell". Each cell overlaps with its neighbouring cells to create a continuous network. The size and shape of each cell is determined by the features of the surrounding area, such as buildings, trees and hills which can block signals. When people travel between cells, the signal is transferred between base stations without a break in service. Each base station covers a certain area only handle a limited number of calls at once. As mobile phones and devices become more popular, more base stations are needed to ensure continuous coverage.

This letter therefore invites you, in accordance with planning policy guidance and the Best Practice Commitments, to enter into pre-application discussions with regard to our preferred site option prior to formal planning submissions. 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. As Atlas Tower Group is seeking to propose a multi-operator site-sharing solution, in this instance it is considered that the optimum solution would be the installation of a new site.

The site is located at Ivybridge RFC, Godwell Lane, North Filham, South Hams, Plymouth, PL21 0FH. While the rugby club building itself is unsuitable for the installation of telecommunications equipment, the installation is sited in the corner of the adjacent field, bordered on two sides by banks of trees, which will help camouflage the ground level equipment.

The height of the proposed apparatus is the minimum capable of providing the technological improvements sought whilst achieving ICNIRP compliance. It should be noted that the new technologies will provide high-quality communications infrastructure essential for economic growth as sought by the NPPF.

The proposal will include the installation of a 25m lattice tower, 3 no. antenna apertures, 4 no. 600mm microwave transmission dishes and 8 no. equipment cabinets inside an 8m x 8m compound enclosed by a 2.4m high close boarded timber fence with gate and development ancillary thereto.

It is imperative that support is given to the introduction of new infrastructure to allow new technology which will allow networks to be able to handle more data and connect more devices simultaneously at much faster speeds. This will enable places to remain competitive and will support the Government's ambition for the UK to become a world leader in telecommunications technologies and development. It should be noted that the new technologies will provide advanced high-quality communications infrastructure essential for economic growth as sought by the NPPF. Any perceived negative impacts will be far outweighed by the overall benefits of the scheme and the proposal as a multi-operator site-sharing solution will limit unnecessary proliferation of telecommunications equipment in the area.

All Atlas Tower Group installations are designed to be fully compliant with the public exposure guidelines established by the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP). These guidelines have the support of UK Government, the European Union and they also have the formal backing of the World Health Organisation.

We enclose a copy of our plans and would welcome your suggestions. We look forward to receiving your response within 14 days of the date of this letter.

Should you wish to respond, please include the reference no. PL21-01 in order for us to be able to answer your query.

Yours faithfully,

Helen Bolam
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For and on behalf of Atlas Tower Group