Clarke Telecom Limited
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Our ref: CTIL_30641100

Pensax Parish Council
Parish Clerk
Ms Carole Hirst

Email: clerk@pensaxparish.org **Via Email**

23rd February 2024

Dear Ms Hirst,

PROPOSED RADIO BASE STATION INSTALLATION AT CS_30641100 LAYBY AT CLOW TOP ROAD, WORCESTER, WORCESTERSHIRE WR6 6AE, NGR E: 373850 N: 268349.

Cornerstone is the UK's leading mobile infrastructure services company. They acquire, manage and own over 20,000 sites and are committed to enabling best in class mobile connectivity for over half of all the country's mobile customers. They oversee works on behalf of telecommunications providers and wherever possible aim to:

- promote shared infrastructure
- maximise opportunities to consolidate the number of base stations
- significantly reduce the environmental impact of network development

Cornerstone are in the process of progressing a suitable site in the Abberley area for a radio base station that will significantly improve service provision for Vodafone Limited and Virgin Media O2 Limited ensuring that the latest 4G service provision is provided in this area of Abberley. The purpose of this letter is to consult with you and seek your views on our proposal before any planning submission is made. We understand that you are not always able to provide site specific comments, however, Cornerstone is committed to consultation with communities on their mobile telecommunications proposals and as such would encourage you to respond.

The proposal is part of the Government backed scheme called Shared Rural Network (SRN). It is a collaboration between Mobile Network Operators (MNO's) (Vodafone, and VMO2) and the Government to improve 4G coverage for people living, working and travelling in poorly served rural areas.

The network will ensure geographic coverage from at least one operator to 95% of the UK by 2025, broadening consumer choice for a fast mobile broadband service in rural areas. Mobiles can only work with a network of base stations in place where people want to use their mobile phones or other wireless devices. Without base stations, the mobile phones and other devices we rely on simply won't work.

There are many rural areas in the UK which are partial not spots. That is, there is only coverage with one mobile Network Operator. An installation in this location will ensure that 4G coverage are provided by the three MNOs – Vodafone and VMO2. Thus this is shared infrastructure which is in full accordance with national planning policy. It will improve service whilst limiting the environmental impact through reduced proliferation and a minimised number of sites.

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The SRN will deliver reliable 4G mobile connectivity allowing rural business to prosper and rural communities to thrive. This is even more significant in the post COVID economic recovery. High quality coverage promotes inward investment, creating jobs to assist in retaining skilled young people in rural areas.

Better connectivity has real, tangible benefits for people and businesses, such as booking GP appointments online, using apps to communicate with friends and family, boosting tourism and agriculture through platforms such as social media which is now an important marketing tool for businesses, access to emergency services etc. 4G can provide a means to connect to superfast broadband where fibre broadband is not yet available.

Cornerstone's technical requirement is as follows:

CS_30641100 LAYBY AT CLOW TOP ROAD, WORCESTER, WORCESTERSHIRE WR6 6AE, NGR E: 373850 N: 268349.

The proposal relates to the installation of a 20m monopole supporting 6 no. antennas, 2 no. transmission dishes, 2 no. equipment cabinets, 1 no. meter cabinet and ancillary development thereto including access track for the Shared Rural Network project on behalf of Cornerstone.

This is a remote location with minimal mobile coverage at the current time. The operators have carefully chosen a site here as it will be surrounded by semi-mature which will shield some of the installation from the surrounding area. This is needed so that the antennas are not blocked by the trees, their leaves and their branches which prevent the signal from being able to reach the target coverage area. The mast will be galvanised (grey) to help blend in with the often-grey sky.

The transmission dishes are essential to link the installation back into the MNO's wider network and relay the data. The transmission dishes need a clear line of sight in order to function. As such they require a centre line height of 14.25m above ground level.

The equipment cabinets are relatively small. Given their location surrounded by semi-mature trees they will not be overly visible in the landscape especially with their proposed colouring of Fir Green RAL 6009 and their maximum height of 1.72m.

The alternative options which have been considered and discounted are set out below:

- **Greenfield Fields East of Village Hall, Snead Common, Worcestershire, NGR E: 373009 N: 269930**
  An installation at this location would be located on low ground and would not deliver the required level of coverage to the target area. This site has therefore been discounted for this reason.

- **Greenfield – Dubcraft, Clows Top Road, Snead Common, Worcestershire, NGR E: 372792 N: 269820**
  The development of an installation in this area is likely be restricted due to a physical lack of space. This site has therefore been discounted for this reason.

- **Greenfield – Village Hall, Clows Top Road, Snead Common, Worcestershire, NGR E: 372825 N: 269842**

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The development of an installation in this area is likely be restricted due to a physical lack of space. This site has therefore been discounted for this reason.

- **Greenfield – Field West of Snead Common, Clows Top Road, Snead Common, Worcestershire, NGR E: 373203 N: 269212**
  An installation at this location would be very exposed with a lack of backdrop/screening and other alternative locations are considered to be more acceptable from a planning perspective.

- **Greenfield – Field behind Lay-by west of The Bell PH, Snead Common, Worcestershire, NGR E: 373471 N: 268989**
  An installation at this location would be located on low ground and would not deliver the required level of coverage to the target area. This site has therefore been discounted for this reason.

- **Greenfield – The Bell PH, Clows Top Road, Snead Common, Worcestershire, NGR E: 373559 N: 268951**
  The development of an installation in this area is likely be restricted due to a physical lack of space. This site has therefore been discounted for this reason.

- **Greenfield – St Clairs Farm, Clows Top Road, Snead Common, Worcestershire, NGR E: 373560 N: 268221**
  An installation at this location would be located on low ground and would not deliver the required level of coverage to the target area. This site has therefore been discounted for this reason.

- **Existing Structure – Pylons, Abberley, Worcestershire, NGR E: 373936 N: 267853**
  An installation at this location would be located too far south and would not deliver the required level of coverage to the target area. This site has therefore been discounted for this reason.

The Local Planning Authority mast register and our records of other potential sites have already been reviewed, the policies in the Development Plan have been taken into account and the planning history of the site has been examined.

The proposal for this Cornerstone site has been designed within International Commission on Non-Ionising Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) public exposure guidelines. It takes into account the cumulative effect of the emissions from the proposed installation and all radio base stations present at, or near, the proposed location.

In order to give you time to send your comments or request further information, we commit to allow at least 14 days before an application is submitted to the Local Planning Authority. This 14-day period starts from the date at the top of this letter.

We would also be grateful if you could please advise of any local stakeholders or groups that might like to make comments. For your information pre-consultation letters and a set of plans have been sent to the Malvern Hills District Council, the local district councillor for Lindridge (Cllr Douglas Gowin), the county councillor for Tenbury (Cllr David Chambers), and the West Worcestershire (MP Harriett Baldwin).

We look forward to receiving any comments you may have on the proposal.

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Should you have any queries regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me (quoting cell number 30641100).

Yours faithfully

Michal Laskowski

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(For Cornerstone on behalf of Vodafone Limited, and VMO2)