Our ref: STY22941

Councillors Edward Malcolm, Judith Taylor and Lynne Proudlock
Councillors of Simonside and Rekendyke Ward
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2nd March 2023

Dear Councillors,

PRECONSULTATION – PROPOSED RADIO BASE STATION INSTALLATION AT STY22941 GRASS VERGE OF DAME FLORA ROBSON AVENUE, BROCKLEY WHINS, SOUTH SHIELDS, TYNE AND WEAR, NE34 9EE, NGR E: 434938 N: 563812.

Gateley Hamer act on behalf of the mobile telecommunications operator CK Hutchison Networks (UK) Ltd. The proposal is to install a radio base station, in order to provide the latest 3G, 4G and new 5G technologies to the Brockley Whins area.

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, CK Hutchison Networks (UK) Ltd are committed to consultation with communities on our mobile telecommunications proposals and as such would encourage you to respond.

As part of CK Hutchison Networks (UK) Ltd continued network improvement program, there is a specific requirement for an installation at the grass verge of Dame Flora Robson Avenue to ensure that the latest high quality 3G and 4G service provision is provided in this area of the borough. The proposed column will also ensure that new 5G coverage can also be provided at this location. This ensures that coverage and capacity requirements are maintained.

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.

This site will enable 5G coverage to be provided to this area of Brockley Whins. 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 radio base station will also meet the extra demands on the network in this area as more people use internet enabled handheld devices. It is a densification project for the operator's network to fill holes in service provision including coverage and capacity. This will enable the operator's customers to be able to use their handheld devices without calls being dropped or buffering occurring where there is a gap in the operator's network coverage and capacity ability. A site in this location will fill the gap in service provision and provide high quality, reliable, advanced 3G, 4G and 5G to this urban area of Brockley Whins.

The preferred CK Hutchison Networks (UK) Ltd option is as follows:

STY22941 GRASS VERGE OF DAME FLORA ROBSON AVENUE, BROCKLEY WHINS, SOUTH SHIELDS, TYNE AND WEAR, NE34 9EE, NGR E: 434938 N: 563812.

The proposal relates to the installation of 15m high slim-line monopole.

The proposed height at 15m is essential in order to ensure the latest 4G and new 5G technologies are provided in the Brockley Whins area. 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.

The antennas are proposed to be open and not shielded as this provides the optimal service provision to the surrounding area. If the antennas were to be shrouded, they would not be as efficient at providing the latest technologies to this cell area. Thus an additional installation would likely to be required in this cell area which would lead to the proliferation of masts contrary to the NPPF.

The transmission dishes are required in order to provide a link into the network. A clear line of sight is required in order for it to meet its design brief. Therefore, require a centre line height of 15m.

The cabinets are designed to appear like other statutory undertakers equipment cabinets.

They are small for telecommunications apparatus and are proposed to be coloured green to assimilate with other commonly found equipment cabinets. The cabinets can be installed under the operators permitted development rights, but have been included on the plans and in the description in order to remain fully transparent.

We have considered alternative site options and discounted as follows:

- **Streetworks – Dame Flora Robson Avenue-Fox Avenue-N/B, Dame Flora Robson Avenue, Brockley Whins, South Shields, Tyne And Wear, NE34 9EE, NGR E: 435088 N: 563858**
  An installation at this grass verge option was discounted because of overhead service cables which occupy the space needed for equipment. The area is also highly residential and it is expected the equipment would be visually intrusive. This site has therefore been discounted for this reason.

- **Streetworks – Dame Flora Robson Avenue, Brockley Whins, South Shields, Tyne And Wear, NE34 9EE, NGR E: 435127 N: 563892**
  An installation at this wide section of pavement was discounted because of the close proximity the option is within the residential properties. The equipment at this location would become severely visually intrusive towards properties and therefore not receive planning. This site has therefore been discounted for this reason.

- **Streetworks- Wenlock Road-Binchester Street-N/B, Wenlock Road, Brockley Whins, South Shields, Tyne And Wear, NE34 9BA, NGR E: 435128 N: 563903**
  A mast at this location the nominal and potential candidate option was discounted from a planning perspective as it is located on a narrow pavement. The equipment would dominate the pavement and there would not be a safe level of pavement retained for pedestrians. This site has therefore been discounted for this reason.

- **Greenfield – Wenlock Road-Binchester Street-N/B, Wenlock Road, Brockley Whins, South Shields, Tyne And Wear, NE34 9BA, NGR E: 435079 N: 564029**
  An installation at this small greenfield area was discounted as there is a pole that emits multiple cables that run above the greenfield. This would restrict the ability to construct equipment at this location. This site has therefore been discounted for this reason.

- **Rooftop – Seton Avenue, Brockley Whins, South Shields, Tyne and Wear, NE34 9RL, NGR E: 434946 N: 563788**
  An installation at this location rooftop of commercial building was discounted as the building has a low elevation and it is expected to not clear the surrounding urban clutter. This site has therefore been discounted for this reason.

- **Streetworks – Dame Flora Robson Avenue, Brockley Whins, South Shields, Tyne And Wear, NE34 9EE NGR E: 435062 N: 563862**
  A mast at this wide section of pavement near multiple pieces of street furniture was discounted because of there being overhead service cables running above the option. It restricts the ability to install a monopole mast. The area is also highly residential, and the equipment is likely to become visually intrusive towards the overlooking properties. This site has therefore been discounted for these reasons.

The proposal for this CK Hutchison Networks (UK) Ltd 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.

Finally, we would be interested in any local stakeholders or groups that you consider would like to know more about our proposals and look forward to receiving your comments on the preferred option identified above. For your information pre-consultation letters and a set of plans have been sent to planning officers and the local ward councillors for Simonside and Rekendyke (Edward Malcolm, Judith Taylor and Lynne Proudlock).

Yours sincerely

Hannah Robinson
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(for and on behalf of CK Hutchison Networks (UK) Ltd).