

From: Planning@horsham.gov.uk
Sent: 14 March 2026 09:19
To: Planning
Subject: Comments for Planning Application DC/26/0342

Categories: Comments Received

Comments summary

Dear Sir/Madam,

Planning Application comments have been made. A summary of the comments is provided below.

Comments were submitted at 14/03/2026 9:18 AM.

Application Summary

Address: North Heath Lane / Coltsfoot Drive Horsham West Sussex RH12 5FH

Proposal: Proposed 20m high Valmont Phase 7.2 streetworks pole with wraparound cabinet new root foundation. Installation of 3no. antennas and 6no. apertures Installation of 2no. Ø300mm dishes Installation of 2no. GPS nodes on top of streetworks pole Installation of 5no. cabinets on new concrete foundation The installation of ancillary equipment for the purposes of telecommunications development

Case Officer: Sam Nye

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Customer Details

Address: 29 Brook Road Horsham

Comments Details

Commenter Type: Member of the Public

Stance: Customer objects to the Planning Application

Reasons for comment:

- Design
- Highway Access and Parking
- Loss of General Amenity
- Other

Comments: Planning Representation - Proposed Telecommunications Mast at North Heath Lane

I am submitting the following representation in relation to the above planning proposal in my capacity as Ward Councillor for Holbrook East.

Prior to the submission of the application I entered into pre-consultation correspondence with the applicant's planning consultant, Dot Surveying Ltd. During that exchange I raised a number of technical and safety questions relating to the proposed telecommunications installation. While the consultant acknowledged these queries and indicated that further information would be sought from the operator, the specific technical points raised have not yet been addressed.

In the interests of transparency, and so that these matters can be considered properly as part of the planning process, I believe it is appropriate to place the following points on the planning record.

Manufacturer Technical Information

During the earlier correspondence I requested the manufacturer's technical data sheet or product specification for the proposed mast structure and associated equipment cabinets.

This information has not yet been provided.

Access to the manufacturer's specification would assist the planning authority and residents in understanding the structural design characteristics, materials, and engineering parameters of the proposed installation. It would therefore be helpful if the applicant could provide the relevant manufacturer-issued technical documentation for both the mast and the associated equipment cabinets as part of the planning submission.

Noise and Residential Amenity

The proposed installation includes telecommunications equipment cabinets containing active electronic equipment and cooling components. Such installations typically rely on internal cooling systems that may include rotating equipment such as fans in order to regulate operating temperatures.

While such systems are generally designed to operate within recognised industry standards, the site is located in close proximity to residential accommodation, including dwellings above the nearby supermarket. During warmer months residents may reasonably be expected to keep windows open during evening and night-time hours. Under such circumstances even relatively low levels of continuous or intermittent mechanical noise from cooling equipment may potentially be audible.

Where noise occurs during night-time periods there is the possibility that this could affect sleep or general residential amenity. It would therefore be helpful to understand whether any site-specific acoustic assessment has been undertaken and to clarify the expected operational noise levels associated with the equipment cabinets, particularly during night-time operation.

Structural and Fire Safety Considerations

The response received from the applicant's consultant notes that the proposed installation would be located approximately 5 metres from the Budgens building. While this separation distance may form part of the operator's standard design approach, it does not fully address the structural risk question raised in earlier correspondence.

The proposed mast is approximately 20 metres in height. In the unlikely event of structural failure resulting from fire, vehicle impact, or other catastrophic damage, a structure of this height could potentially extend beyond the stated separation distance and impact nearby property, including residential accommodation located above the supermarket.

Given the height of the structure and its proximity to commercial premises and residential accommodation, it would be helpful for the following matters to be clarified:

- whether any site-specific fire or structural failure risk assessment has been undertaken for the installation
- whether the mast design incorporates any fire-resistant materials or structural protection measures intended to mitigate collapse in the event of fire or vehicle impact
- whether any active or passive fire protection measures are incorporated into the mast or equipment cabinet design
- what engineering analysis has been undertaken to demonstrate that a separation distance of approximately 5 metres is considered appropriate given the height of the structure

If such assessments or technical documentation exist, it would assist both the planning authority and residents if these could be provided as supporting information.

Support for Improved Telecommunications Coverage

I would also like to make clear that I recognise the importance of improving mobile and 5G telecommunications coverage across Horsham. Many residents regularly experience poor or inconsistent signal, and improved connectivity would clearly benefit both households and local businesses.

However, it is also important that new infrastructure is located in a manner that is demonstrably appropriate and safe. Given the technical questions outlined above, it may be appropriate to consider whether alternative nearby locations could potentially deliver the same improvement in network coverage while presenting fewer proximity or safety concerns.

Conclusion

At this stage my intention is to ensure that the relevant technical information and assessments are available so that the proposal can be fully understood and properly considered as part of the planning process.

I would therefore respectfully request that the applicant provide the manufacturer's technical specifications, any relevant structural or safety assessments, and clarification regarding potential noise impacts so that these matters can be taken into account before the application is determined.

Given the proximity of the proposal to residential accommodation and the matters outlined above, I would encourage the planning authority to ensure that all relevant supporting information is available and carefully considered as part of the determination process. Should any uncertainty remain regarding the potential impacts on residential amenity or public safety, it may be appropriate for the application to receive further scrutiny through the appropriate planning process.

This representation is submitted in my capacity as Ward Councillor for Holbrook East, reflecting concerns raised by residents and the importance of ensuring that proposals are assessed thoroughly and transparently.


Ward Councillor - Holbrook East
Horsham District Council

Kind regards

Telephone:

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**Horsham
District
Council**

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