

MOTION TO COUNCIL, WEDNESDAY, 26th JANUARY, 2022

5G Masts and Associated Equipment.

This council notes the current roll out of 5G broadband telecommunications masts and accompanying base stations into residential areas to a height of twenty metres in respect of on-street poles, and dimensions in excess of two metres in height and width for accompanying on-street base stations. Council further notes the potential for poles to increase in size to 30 metres where the applicants may deem it necessary.

Council therefore expresses its concerns in line with numerous other local authorities both locally and nationally, that amendments to the General Permitted Development Order 2015 allows telecommunications companies to install any structure to any height on the public highway under permitted development, thereby removing the rights of objection from local residents directly contradicting the localities agenda.

Council is further concerned that despite the adverse impact on the amenity of local residents and the street scene, the National Planning Policy Framework places an unreasonable expectation on planning authorities to approve such applications and the propensity for any appeal against refusal to favour the applicants, removing all rights of reply from those who will be affected the most.

This council therefore calls on the Government to bring the siting of all telecommunications equipment back under planning control, and require full planning permission for all telecommunications masts in residential areas regardless of their height, enabling residents and communities to have a say in decisions which directly impact upon them.

Council therefore resolves to-

Write to our local Members of Parliament to seek their support, and to Michael Gove the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to urge that planning legislation is amended accordingly.

Proposed by Councillor Angela Turner.

Seconded by Councillor David Howarth.