

## **25/04239/FUL**

Proposed upgrade of existing rooftop telecommunications equipment including the installation of 2no. rooftop antenna support poles with radio antennas to replace existing, along with the installation of a small GPS Node and ancillary development

Beechen Cliff School, Kipling Avenue, Bear Flat, Bath, BA2 4RE

### **BFA Comment**

BFA finds no valid planning reason for this application to be refused.

We understand that the roof of the School has been used for telecommunications for over 20 years without local disquiet. BFA made no objection to the preceding application in the series (antenna on rooftop pole) in 2018.

The current scheme is to upgrade the equipment to 5G with the installation of two antennas to replace the existing and ancillary work. The 'mast' illustrated in a recent leaflet is clearly not of this scheme, for which no mast is sought.

#### **Appearance**

The application in essence proposes two poles to replace the two poles in place now. The visual impact, in our view, will be minor and not significantly different from the existing.

#### **Health**

BFA has no expertise on the impact of electronic communications on the health of people and wildlife.

However, we note that 5G has been in operation in the UK since 2019.

The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) advice is that the guidelines of the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) should be adopted for limiting exposure. For this application a certificate confirming compliance with the ICNIRP guidelines has been supplied.

National planning guidance states that local authorities must determine applications on planning grounds only and should not 'set health safeguards different from the International Commission guidelines for public exposure'.

Thus, the ICNIRP is key: as this scheme is compliant, there is no scope for it to be refused on health grounds.

## Conclusion

BFA has no objection to this planning application.

The applicants say that their scheme is the ‘least visually intrusive solution’, being preferred to ‘introducing an entirely new ground-based or rooftop installation elsewhere within the local area.’. The site fits within the existing network configuration for the operator EE, ‘thereby eliminating the need to introduce additional base stations within the locality’.

BFA has already resisted intention to enlarge or add to equipment on the Gore. If this scheme goes ahead, then that eventuality seems less likely.

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