
Appeal Decision

Site visit made on 23 January 2017

by H Butcher BSc (Hons) MSc MRTPI

an Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government

Decision date: 3 March 2017

Appeal Ref: APP/U3935/W/16/3159851

Land at the junction of Thamesdown Drive and footpath to Gaynor Close, Swindon, SN25 4XU

- The appeal is made under section 78 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 against a refusal to grant approval required under Schedule 2, Part 16, Class A of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015.
 - The appeal is made by UK Broadband Ltd against the decision of Swindon Borough Council.
 - The application Ref S/TC/16/1042, dated 7 June 2016, was refused by notice dated 20 July 2016.
 - The development proposed is the installation of a 15 metre high monopole supporting 3 no. antennas and a 0.3 metre transmission dish, the installation of a radio equipment cabinet and electricity meter cabinet, and development works ancillary thereto.
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Decision

1. The appeal is allowed and approval is granted under the provisions of Schedule 2, Part 16, Class A of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 for the installation of a 15 metre high monopole supporting 3 no. antennas and a 0.3 metre transmission dish, the installation of a radio equipment cabinet and electricity meter cabinet, and development works ancillary thereto, at land at the junction of Thamesdown Drive and footpath to Gaynor Close, Swindon, SN25 4XU, in accordance with the terms of the application, Ref S/TC/16/1042, dated 7 June 2016, and the plans submitted with it.

Main Issue

2. The main issue is the effect of the development on the street scene in Thamesdown Drive.

Reasons

3. The appeal site is located on the southern side of Thamesdown Drive, which at this point is a busy 40mph dual carriageway. The proposed installation would be sited on an area of grass verge adjacent to a footpath which leads from Thamesdown Drive to Gaynor Close, which is part of a larger residential estate. There are tall streetlights on both sides of this section of Thamesdown Drive along with other items of street furniture such as road signs. There are also trees and bushes rising to a height of approximately 12m which would provide a backdrop to the installation.
 4. The monopole would have a slim, unfussy design, and the antennas would be contained within a shroud. As such it would have a similar appearance to that
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of adjacent street lights and, like these, would be grey in colour. The smaller pieces of equipment would be painted green to blend in with the backdrop of landscaping. Although the monopole would be taller than the nearest street light, in order to be clear of surrounding buildings and trees, it would be set further back from the edge of the highway which would reduce its prominence. Overall, given the existing conditions, I find no harm to the street scene of Thamesdown Drive.

5. I have had regard to Policies IN3 and DE1 of the Swindon Borough Local Plan 2026 (2015) as a material consideration insofar as they relate to siting and appearance and find no conflict in this regard. Nor do I find any conflict with the National Planning Policy Framework which supports advanced, high quality communications infrastructure essential for sustainable economic growth, and, where new sites are required, requires equipment to be sympathetically designed and camouflaged where appropriate.

Conclusion

6. For the reasons given, the appeal should succeed. The development order imposes relevant conditions as standard.

Hayley Butcher

INSPECTOR