



Appeal Decision

Site visit made on 17 June 2019

by Michael Wood RIBA

an Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State

Decision date: 18 July 2019

Appeal Ref: APP/C3240/W/19/3223822

Wm Morrison Supermarkets Plc, Gresham Drive, Newdale, Telford TF3 5ES

- The appeal is made under section 78 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 against a refusal to grant planning permission.
 - The appeal is made by Ms Clare Pilling against Telford and Wrekin Council.
 - The application Ref TWC/2018/0714 dated 24 July 2018 was refused by notice dated 10 December 2018.
 - The development proposed is the erection of an automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) camera.
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Decision

1. The appeal is allowed and planning permission is granted for the erection of an automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) camera at Wm Morrison Supermarket, Gresham Drive, Newdale, Telford TF3 5ES in accordance with the terms of the application, Ref TWC/2018/0714 dated 24 July 2018, subject to the conditions set out in the Schedule attached to this decision.

Application for costs

2. An application for costs was made by Ms Clare Pilling against the Telford and Wrekin Council. This application is the subject of a separate Decision.

Background and Main Issue

3. The officer's report to committee explained clearly that the only matter for the consideration of the planning application was the appearance of the installation of an ANPR camera which would be installed in the supermarket car park. The reasons for refusal did not refer to the main issue that was assessed in the report but having regard to the submitted evidence and representations in this case, I consider that the main issue is the effect of the erection of the proposed ANPR camera on the character and appearance of the area.

Reasons

4. The proposed camera pole would have a grey galvanised metal finish and the camera fixed to the top of the 4 metre pole would measure 16.3cm in both height and width, and 11cm in length, and would be placed at the top of the pole facing away from the car park towards the entrance and exit. Whilst the Council has raised no objection to the design and appearance of the camera it has objected to the siting as a reason for refusal but has not submitted any evidence relating to this matter and no details have been put forward to explain why the specific siting proposed would not be acceptable. The use of fixed surveillance cameras has become a familiar feature in shopping centre car

parks and in this case the appearance of the camera would not be discordant or inappropriate in a situation where there are already other installations associated with shopping centre car parks. The installation would be replaceable or removable and, thus, able to respond to future changes. I find that the location is suitable for its purpose and would not be visually harmful. I conclude that it would be sustainable development in accordance with policy SP4 of the Telford and Wrekin Local Plan 2011-2031 adopted in 2018 (the Local Plan) and with the objectives of paragraph 7 of the National Planning Policy Framework of 2019 (the Framework).

Other matters

5. It has been indicated that, if permitted, the erection of the ANPR camera would impact on the surrounding highways network and infrastructure, and would prejudice the safety and free flow of highway users. This matter is not material to the appeal.
6. There has been a disagreement involving consequences from the erection of the ANPR camera. The Council are opposed to the use of the camera in restricting longer term parking in this location. I find that the controlled use of parking is an operational matter for the owners who are providing parking facilities on private land. It is not a matter to be determined by this appeal, which is limited to consideration of the erection of the camera.

Conditions

7. In addition to the standard time limit condition, a condition specifying the approved plans is necessary for the avoidance of doubt and in the interests of proper planning. In the interests of precision I have amended the plans condition suggested by the Council

Conclusion

8. For the above reasons the appeal is allowed.

Michael Wood

INSPECTOR

Schedule of Conditions

- 1) The development hereby permitted shall begin no later than 3 years from the date of this decision.
- 2) The development hereby permitted shall be carried out in accordance with the following approved plans:
Location and Site Plan ref 0882-DWG-RED-01-01 rev 02 and
0882-DWG-01-02 rev 02.
Elevations ref 0882-DWG-ELE-01-01 rev 01, in so far as the drawing shows details of the pole and camera.