Clarke Telecom Limited
Unit E, Madison Place,
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[redacted]

Our ref: EE_25535_MBNL_ARN046

The Chief Planning Officer
Arun District Council
Planning Services
Arun District Council, Civic Centre
Littlehampton
West Sussex
BN17 5LF

Email: [redacted]

Via Email

1st June 2020

Dear Sir or Madam

PRE-APPLICATION CONSULTATION – RADIO BASE STATION INSTALLATION AT EE_25535_MBNL_ARN046 CHALCRAFT LANE, LOWER BAGNOR ROAD, BOGNOR REGIS, WEST SUSSEX, PO21 5QB, N.G.R E: 491135 N: 099727

Clarke Telecom Ltd act on behalf of the mobile telecommunications operator MBNL. MBNL undertakes the management and network deployment of telecommunications sites on behalf of both EE (UK) Ltd and Hutchison 3G UK Limited. The proposal is for a new Hutchison 3G UK Limited column, in order to provide the latest 4G and new 5G technologies to this area of Bagnor Regis.

As part of MBNL's continued network improvement program, there is a specific requirement for a new mast at Chalcraft Lane to ensure that the latest high quality 2G, 3G and 4G service provision continues to be provided in this area of Bagnor Regis. The proposed new column will also ensure that new 5G coverage can also be provided at this location. This ensures that coverage and capacity requirements are maintained.

The proposed new mast has been sited and designed in order to provide 5G coverage and to support the existing mobile network. At present it is paramount that digital connectivity is supported and maintained throughout the country. In particular the current massive shift in user demand from city centres and places of work to residential areas and suburbs requires an improvement in coverage and capacity throughout the whole network. The current proposal therefore provides such additional capacity to the network whilst still promoting the improved 5G technology.

The proposed development is within the limits set out in Part 16 for permitted development with Prior Approval. The location enables the whole of the surrounding area to benefit from improved 5G network coverage and has been designed to be future proof, thus enabling other technologies to be deployed depending upon the demand required. As the shift in demand is expected for the foreseeable future and that as central government considers digital communications to be a critical national infrastructure, we intend to support customers and local residents by ensuring as little disruption as possible. The existing site will therefore be retained so that all existing users may benefit at this difficult time. In addition, EE will become the Emergency Services Network Provider and in order to dedicate the 4G network for that use, the intention is to support all users during the current climate and to maintain all current services **without the removal of any existing equipment**.

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This letter therefore invites the Local Planning Authority and stakeholders, in accordance with planning policy guidance and Best Practice Commitments, to enter into pre-application discussions with regard to our preferred site option prior to a formal planning submission. Several steps in the site identification process have already been undertaken. The Local Planning Authority mast register and our records of other potential sites have been reviewed, the policies in the Development Plan have been taken into account and we have examined the inter-operator site sharing database.

Mobile telecoms networks are now ubiquitous throughout the UK. It is an expectation that an individual can connect and use their mobile phone whenever and wherever they are. With the advent of new technology, under the banner of 5G, further advances are proposed and Central Government has seen the telecoms industry, and in particular 5G, to be at the forefront of economic development.

This new column will enable 5G coverage to be provided to this area of Bagnor Regis. The Government recognises that widespread coverage of mobile connectivity is essential for people and businesses. That is why the Government is committed to extending mobile geographical coverage further across the UK, with continuous mobile connectivity provided to all major roads and to being a world leader in 5G. This will allow everyone in the country to benefit from the economic advantages of widespread mobile coverage.

As well as improved mobile signal, 5G networks are also crucial to drive productivity and growth across the sectors that local areas are focusing on through their emerging Local Industrial Strategies. Enabling and planning for 5G implementation is central to achieving the Government's objective to deliver prosperity at the local level and enable all places to share in the proceeds of growth.

5G service provision will bring faster, more responsive and reliable connections than ever before. More than any previous generation of mobile networks, it has the potential to improve the way people live, work and travel, and to deliver significant benefits to the economy and industry through the ability to connect more devices to the Internet at the same time, the 'Internet of Things'. This will enable communities to manage traffic flow and control energy usage, monitor patient health remotely, and increase productivity for business and farmers, all through the real-time management of data.

The demand for mobile data in the UK is increasing rapidly, and as households and businesses become increasingly reliant on mobile connectivity, the infrastructure must be in place to ensure supply does not become a constraint on future demand.

The new column will also meet the extra demands on the network in this area as more people use internet enabled handheld devices.

The preferred MBNL option is as follows:

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The proposal relates to the installation of a new monopole up to 20m in height supporting 6 no. antennas with a wrap around equipment cabinet at the base of the column, installation of 3 no. new equipment cabinets and ancillary development thereto. Enclosed for reference is a site location plan and an indicative drawing of the proposed monopole.

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The proposed height is essential in order to ensure the latest 4G and new 5G technologies are provided in and around this area of Bagnor Regis. These latest technologies operate at higher frequency bands than older technologies such as 2G and 3G. The higher the frequency band the greater the radio signal is naturally weakened. This means that the effects of clutter are even more significant than for the provision of older technologies. As a result, a higher column is normally required to maintain the same coverage footprint. The latest 4G technology and new 5G service provision carry higher capacity and data speeds to the user, this leads to such antennas having to be positioned at a higher height than more standard antennae and in turn a taller antenna height for 5G service provision.

The new column is located where there is an existing established radio base station. There are no other more suitable locations within the immediate area for the operator to locate their equipment. As such this is sequentially the most preferable site for the operator to install the new column and associated equipment cabinets.

The proposal for this MBNL site has been designed within International Commission on Non-Ionising Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) public exposure guidelines. A certificate of ICNIRP compliance will be included within the planning submission.

Finally, we would be interested in any local stakeholders or groups that you consider would like to know more about our proposals and look forward to receiving your comments on the preferred option identified above. For your information a set of consultation plans and letter have been sent to the local ward councillors for Aldwick East district Ward, the county councillor Ashvin Patel, the clerk for Aldwick parish council and the local MP Nick Gibb.

We look forward to receiving your response within 14 days of the date of this letter.

Yours faithfully

[redacted]

Jennie Hann BSc MTPL MRTPI
Planning Manager
Clarke Telecom

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