

## **WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **Report by the Executive Director of Housing, Environmental and Economic Development**

**Planning Committee: 14 August 2013**

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**DC13/105: Removal of existing telecom mast and erection of 15 metre high monopole mast and ancillary equipment cabinets at Kyle Terrace/Cardross Road, Dumbarton by Vodafone Limited**

#### **1. REASON FOR REPORT**

- 1.1** The application site is located on land owned by the Council, and under the terms of the approved Scheme of Delegation it requires to be determined by the Planning Committee.

#### **2. RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1** **Grant** planning permission subject to conditions in section 9.

#### **3. DEVELOPMENT DETAILS**

- 3.1** The application site is located on a grass verge at the edge of the public footway on Cardross Road, near to the junction with Kyle Terrace. It is bordered by an access road and flatted properties to the north, by areas of landscaping to the east and west and by Cardross Road to the south. The nearest residential property is located approximately 16 metres away to the north of the site.
- 3.2** Permission is sought to remove the existing 14.8 metre high mast that is located on the edge of the footway and replace it with a new 15 metre high monopole mast. The new mast would be located on the grass verge, approximately 1 metre away from the current location of the existing mast. It would be of similar design to the existing mast and would have 6 internal antennas. Two new equipment cabinets each measuring 0.75 metres by 0.75 metres and 1.9 metres high would be installed behind an existing equipment cabinet. It is also proposed to replace a small existing electrical cabinet with another cabinet of similar size. The applicant has indicated that the replacement of the mast is required in order to provide improved 3G mobile phone coverage within the area and to allow for the introduction of 4G technology. As with the existing mast, the new mast would be shared by two operators (Vodafone and O2). An ICNIRP Certificate has been submitted with the application which indicates that the mast will operate within the radiation levels specified by the Government which is consistent with Scottish Planning Policy.

#### **4. CONSULTATIONS**

- 4.1** West Dunbartonshire Council Roads and Estates Services have no objection to the proposal.

#### **5. REPRESENTATIONS**

- 5.1** None.

#### **6. ASSESSMENT AGAINST THE DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

##### West Dunbartonshire Local Plan 2010

- 6.1** The application site is within an area designated as an Existing Residential Area and policy H5 seeks to protect the character and amenity of existing residential areas. The mast would replace an existing mast and the equipment cabinets are of an acceptable size and are positioned next to an existing cabinet. It is therefore considered that the proposal would not have any impact on the amenity of the area and that it would comply with policy H5.
- 6.2** Policy DC4 indicates that proposals for telecommunications equipment will be assessed against criteria including appropriate siting, design, landscaping, screening, and integration of the equipment with its surroundings. The policy also encourages site sharing. As discussed in Section 7 below it is considered that the siting of the mast is appropriate, and it involves site sharing as recommended by the above policy. The proposal is therefore considered to be in compliance with Policy DC4.

#### **7. ASSESSMENT AGAINST MATERIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

##### Siting and appearance

- 7.1** PAN62 Radio Telecommunications provides advice on siting and design and encourages equipment to be designed and positioned as sensitively as possible. The mast would be of a simple monopole type which is relatively unobtrusive, and its scale and appearance would not be unduly prominent within the street scene. The mast would be within an area where there are numerous lampposts which means that it would not look out of character in this location, and the two additional equipment cabinets would not be unduly large. Two small trees immediately adjacent to the site would provide a backdrop to the mast and cabinets, which in turn would reduce the development's visual impact. The adjacent footway would not be affected by the development and there are no technical objections. The proposal is therefore considered to be in accordance with the siting and design requirements of PAN62 and local plan policy DC4.

#### **8. CONCLUSION**

- 8.1** The proposal would replace an existing telecommunications mast with a new mast of very similar appearance, within an area that is considered to be a suitable location for such masts. The overall impact of the development on the area is acceptable.

## **9. CONDITIONS**

- 01. Prior to commencement of works details of the colour/finish to be applied to all elements of the approved development shall be submitted for the further written approval of the Planning Authority and thereafter implemented as approved.**
- 02. The proposed monopole and associated equipment shall be removed when it is no longer operational and the land restored to its former condition.**

**Elaine Melrose**  
**Executive Director of Housing, Environmental**  
**and Economic Development**  
**Date: 22 July 2013**

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**Appendix:** None.

**Background Papers:**

1. Planning application and plans.
2. Consultation responses.
3. West Dunbartonshire Local Plan 2010
4. Scottish Planning Policy
5. PAN 62 Radio Telecommunications

**Wards affected:** Ward 3 (Dumbarton)