

Our ref: CTIL_303706

7 June 2021

Braunston Parish Council
C/O Stephen Rolt Parish Clerk
82 Greenway
Braunston
NN11 7JT

Email: clerk@braunstonpc.org

Clarke Telecom Ltd
Unit E
Madison Place
Northampton Road
Manchester
M40 5AG

Dear Mr Rolt

**PROPOSED BASE STATION INSTALLATION AT CTIL_303706 GRASS VERGE OF HIGH STREET,
BRAUNSTON, DAVENTRY, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE, NN11 7HS NGR E: 453546 N: 266135**

Cornerstone is the UK's leading mobile infrastructure services company. We acquire, manage, and own over 20,000 sites and are committed to enabling best in class mobile connectivity for over half of all the country's mobile customers. We oversee works on behalf of telecommunications providers and wherever possible aim to:

- promote shared infrastructure
- maximise opportunities to consolidate the number of base stations
- significantly reduce the environmental impact of network development

As part of the Smart Meter rollout, there is a requirement for a new radio base station in this location to provide connectivity to the Braunston area.

Smart Meter is an electronic device that records consumption of electronic energy and communicates the information to the electricity supplier for monitoring and billing. Smart Meters typically record energy hourly or more frequently, and report at least daily.

There is a legal obligation for all energy companies to complete their Smart Meter 'roll out' by 2020. This means that energy suppliers need to take reasonable steps to offer Smart Meter installation to their customers by the deadline. Customers are entitled to refuse going forward with the installation if they wish to.

In some areas of the country, these Smart Meters contain a sim card which connects to the Telefonica Network to enable them to operate. However, due to the poor connectivity in some rural areas, Smart Meters cannot be rolled out without first installing the infrastructure necessary to connect the Smart Meters back in to the network and relay their data.

In the first instance, all correspondence should be directed to the agent.

Cornerstone Planning Consultation Letter to Councillors - Standard V.3 – 15/04/2021

Registered Address:
Cornerstone Telecommunications, Infrastructure Limited,
Hive 2, 1530 Arlington Business Park, Theale, Berkshire, RG7 4SA.
Registered in England & Wales No. 08087551.
VAT No. GB142 8555 06

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New installations are required to be installed to cover these rural 'not spots', enabling the energy suppliers to take reasonable steps to offer Smart Meter installation to their rural based customers by 2020, in line with their legal obligations.

The infrastructure needed to enable the Smart Meter to operate is also the same as that needed for 2G, 3G and 4G service provision for Telefonica UK Limited. Some of these rural areas are not currently serviced by Telefonica as it was not commercially viable to provide connectivity to such a low populated area. Braunston is one such location. However, the Smart Meter roll-out has meant that there is now a viable opportunity to finally fill these rural holes in service provision bringing them in to the 21st Century technological age.

Cornerstone is in the process of progressing suitable sites in the Braunston area for radio base stations that will improve service provision for *Telefonica UK Limited*. The purpose of this letter is to consult with you and seek your views on our proposal before any planning submission is made. We understand that you are not always able to provide site specific comments, however, Cornerstone are committed to consultation with communities on our mobile telecommunications proposals and as such would encourage you to respond.

As part of *Telefonica's* continued network improvement program, there is a specific requirement for a new radio base station at this location to provide Smart Metering capabilities as well as to provide enhanced 2G, 3G and 4G coverage and capacity, ensuring that this area of Braunston has access to the latest technologies.

Smart Meters can only operate where there is connectivity in to the network. Mobiles can only work with a network of base stations in place where people want to use their mobile phones or other wireless devices. Without base stations, the mobile phones and other devices we rely on simply won't work.

Please find below the details of the proposed site and the alternative site options considered and discounted in our site selection process: -

Our technical network requirement is as follows:

- **CTIL_303706 Telefonica UK Limited Grass verge of High Street SWs**

The site is fundamentally needed to enable the rollout of Smart Meters in this rural area of Braunston and the surrounding area. It will also provide the opportunity to provide much needed 2G, 3G and 4G service provision where currently there is little to no coverage for large swathes of this rural area. This will ensure that the energy suppliers can fulfil their legal Smart Meter obligations and that Telefonica's customers can finally have access to the latest service provision currently available. The installation will also meet the extra demands on the network in this area as new technologies improve increasing the demand for 4G technology.

A number of options have been assessed in respect of the site search process and we consider the best solution is as follows:

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The proposed works comprise the installation of a 20m monopole with open head frame supporting 6 no. antennas, 2 no. transmission dishes, 2 no. equipment cabinets and ancillary development thereto including 3 no. Remote Radio Units (RRUs).

The proposed height at 20m is essential in order to clear the surrounding trees and reach the target coverage area. Thus, if the column were to be any lower, the antennas would not be able to operate effectively nor reach the target coverage area. In order to minimise the width of the proposed column, the antennas are split in to a dual stack formation where 3 antennas will be located at the top of the column and the other 3 antennas will be located underneath. The antennas are packed as tightly as possible at the top of the mast to minimise visual impact in the surrounding area. This is the minimum width possible to ensure that all the antennas are able to be supported at the top of the column. The column width also cannot be reduced any further as it would not be able to support all the operator's equipment if the column were to be any slimmer. If it were any slimmer an additional installation would be required which would lead to the proliferation of masts contrary to national planning guidance.

The column is a simple, functional, vertical structure necessary to provide a smart metering service provision to the Braunston community and new service provision to Braunston and the surrounding area. There are other vertical structures in the streetscene which will help it assimilate in to the local environ including the wooden poles supporting the power lines and the mature trees which rise to some 16m. The column is proposed to be finished in a grey colour but can be coloured any other colour that the LPA consider appropriate.

The cabinets are designed to appear like other statutory undertakers equipment cabinets. They are small for telecommunications apparatus and are proposed to be coloured green to assimilate with other equipment cabinets commonly found in urban environments. The cabinets can be installed under the operators permitted development rights but have been included on the plans and in the description in order to remain fully transparent.

We have considered alternative site options and discounted as follows:

- **Streetworks – Junction of Church Road and Barby Road, Braunston, Daventry, Northamptonshire, NN11 7HQ NGR E: 454267 E: 266398**
An installation in this location would be much closer to residential properties with no natural screening than the preferred option. It would also have a greater impact on visual amenity and would appear prominent than the preferred option. It has therefore been discounted for these reasons.
- **Greenfield – Braunston C of E Primary School, Barby Road, Braunston, Daventry, Northamptonshire, NN11 7HF NGR E: 454213 N: 266406**
The ground level is too low in this location to provide the necessary coverage to the target coverage area.

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- **Rooftop – All Saints Church, 71 High Street, Braunston, Daventry, Northamptonshire, NN11 7HR NGR E: 453702 N: 266136**
The orientation of the church tower and its louvres do not provide the necessary coverage to the target coverage area. The louvres are also quite narrow and therefore would offer very limited space to site an installation in this location. The design of the tower does not lend itself to being able to provide sufficient space to externally mount antennas on the outside of the building. This building is Grade II listed and therefore siting an installation on this heritage asset would have a greater impact on its character and appearance than the preferred option.
- **Greenfield/Rooftop – Boat House public house, London Road, Braunston, Daventry, Northamptonshire, NN11 7HB NGR E: 453469 N: 265972**
The car park associated with the public house would not provide sufficient available space for a ground based installation in this location. The ground level is also too low to be able to provide sufficient coverage to the target coverage area. The design of the public house does not lend itself to being able to support a telecommunications installation at this location. Therefore, this site has been discounted for these reasons.
- **Wayside House, Braunston Business Park, Braunston, Northamptonshire, NN11 7HB NGR E: 453361 N: 266018**
The rooftop is too low to provide the necessary coverage to the target coverage area. There is also a lack of available space within the grounds of this business park to support a ground based installation. The ground level is also too low to provide the necessary coverage to the target coverage area.
- **Rooftop/greenfield Midland Chandlers, London Road, Braunston, Daventry, Northamptonshire, NN11 7HB NGR E: 453355 N: 266022**
The rooftop is too low to provide the necessary coverage to the target coverage area. The roof design is pitched so a radio base station could not be attached to such a design of roof. The building is also not designed to be able to structurally support the weight of a radio base station in this location. The ground level is too low to provide the necessary coverage to the target coverage area. As such, an installation in this location has been discounted for these reasons.
- **Greenfield/Rooftop Braunston Marina, Brindley Quays, Braunston, Daventry, Northamptonshire, NN11 7JH NGR E: 453896 N: 265840**
There is insufficient space within the marina to site a radio base station. The ground level is too low to provide the necessary coverage to the target coverage area. It would appear more prominent in this waterfront location than the preferred option and would have a greater impact on visual amenity than the preferred location. The rooftops are also too low to provide the necessary coverage to the target coverage area.

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- **Streetworks – Junction of High Street and Church Road, Braunston, Northamptonshire, NN11 7HY NGR E: 453633 N: 266130**
A site in this location would be more prominent than the preferred option. It would also be directly opposite the Grade II listed church. As such, it would have a greater impact on the character and appearance of this heritage asset and the surrounding area than the preferred option.
- **Streetworks – Junction of Church Road and Greenway, Braunston, Northamptonshire, NN11 7HP NGR E: 453798 N: 266244**
A site in this location would be surrounded by residential properties and have a greater impact on visual amenity than the preferred option.
- **Rooftop/Greenfield – The Old Plough, High Street, Braunston, Northamptonshire, NN11 7HZ NGR E: 453952 N: 266158**
The design of the public house building with a pitched roof would not be able to support a telecommunications installation and the building is not structurally capable of supporting the weight of the equipment. The building is also adjacent and diagonally opposite two Grade II listed buildings. Siting telecommunications equipment in this location would detrimentally affect the setting of these important heritage assets. There is insufficient space in the grounds of the public house and associated car park to install a ground based installation.

The Local Planning Authority must register and our records of other potential sites have already been reviewed, the policies in the Development Plan have been taken into account and the planning history of the site has been examined.

All Cornerstone installations are designed to be fully compliant with the public exposure guidelines established by the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP). These guidelines have the support of UK Government, the European Union and they also have the formal backing of the World Health Organisation. A certificate of ICNIRP compliance will be included within the planning submission.

In order to give you time to send your comments or request further information, we commit to allow at least 14 days before an application is submitted to the Local Planning Authority. This 14-day period starts from the date at the top of this letter.

We would also be grateful if you could please advise of any local stakeholders or groups that might like to make comments. For your information pre-consultation letters and a set of plans have been sent to the local ward councillors for Braunston and Crick Ward, and the local MP Chris Heaton-Harris.

We look forward to receiving any comments you may have on the proposal.

Should you have any queries regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me (quoting cell number [CTIL_303706]).

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Yours faithfully,



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(for and on behalf of Cornerstone)

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