

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (GENERAL PERMITTED
DEVELOPMENT PROCEDURE) ORDER 1995 - TO DATE
PLANNING AND COMPENSATION ACT 1991
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ADVERT REGULATIONS 1994
PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS)
ACT 1990
APPLICATIONS FOR PERMISSION FOR DEVELOPMENT**

These are reports and recommendations by Officers for consideration and resolution by the County Planning Authority.

All the applications in respect of the proposals specified in this report will be available for inspection by the Members of the Committee prior to and during the meeting at which the said applications will be considered.

The Background Papers relating to each application, including forms, plans, relevant correspondence, Development Plan and guidance documents are available for public inspection during normal office hours

A REPORT BY THE HEAD OF PLANNING SERVICES

TELECOMMUNICATIONS DEVELOPMENT

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To update members on current issues relating to telecommunications development.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 In December 2000 I reported to the Planning Committee on this subject, setting out existing planning controls and advising members of the contents of the consultation paper issued by the National Assembly for Wales (NAW) which proposed that masts on buildings and structures, and ground based masts would require planning permission. This report has been circulated to Town and Community Councils for their information
- 2.2 Some members recently attended a very informative seminar on telecommunications organised by the North Wales Planning Officers which took place in Caernarfon on 19th October.
- 2.3 A new wave of proposals for telecommunications development is imminent with the arrival of the third generation of mobile phone technology - the Universal Mobile Telecommunications System.

3. CURRENT ISSUES

- 3.1 Following the NAW consultation paper towards the end of 2000, further proposals have been outlined by the Assembly in the form of a package of measures announced by Sue Essex in April 2001 and an interim regulatory impact assessment (RIA) published in August 2001. In essence the proposal is to:
- i) Increase the time for local authorities to deal with prior approval applications from 42 or 28 days to 56 days for ground based masts and for those on buildings, but not to require an application for full planning permission.
 - ii) To increase public consultation on such applications.
 - iii) To increase planning fees on such applications.
- 3.2 We have responded to NAW on these further proposals on behalf of the Council as Local Planning Authority reiterating the view that ground based masts and other significant telecommunications development should be under full planning control and that the proposals for public consultation will not be the same as planning applications as the strict time limits of 56 days gives a deadline to the extent that the Council can consult and take account of views. A copy of our e-mail response is **attached**.
- 3.3 In contrast Scotland have decided to bring ground based masts under full planning control whereas in England a 56 day prior approval system is to be introduced.
- 3.4 With regard to health and safety issues, whilst studies are continuing into the effects of telecommunications installations and equipment on health, the government has

advised Councils not to intervene with mast proposals where national health and safety guidelines are met. Applicants are being asked to provide a certificate of ICNIRP compliance with applications.

- 3.5 Members will be aware that the Council as land owner has resolved to impose a temporary embargo on the installation of radio masts on Council land and property pending further government guidance. This was resolved at a Cabinet meeting on 17th May 2001 and ratified at Full Council on 24th July 2001. However, this Committee must continue to exercise its powers as Local Planning Authority only and consider the planning issues raised by any planning application, notwithstanding the Council land embargo.

4. FURTHER INFORMATION

- 4.1 The National Assembly consultations on telecommunications can be viewed on their web site - www.wales.gov.uk.

This report is for members information.

Appendix not available in electronic form

MD/SH

A REPORT BY THE HEAD OF PLANNING SERVICES

DATE OF SITE VISITS

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise Members of the likely date of any Site Visits requested by the Planning Committee.

2. DATE OF THE SITE VISITS

- 2.1 In consultation with Legal and Administration, it has been decided that the **Wednesday 5th December 2001** is most suitable. This date has been provisionally booked.
- 2.2 You are advised, therefore that any site visits arranged today will take place **On Wednesday 5th December 2001 (times to be advised).**

3. MEMBERSHIP OF THE SITE VISIT PANEL

- 3.1 This will depend on Political Balance and will include the Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee and the relevant Local Member(s)

4. RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 **That Members agree to the Site Visits being held on Wednesday 5th December 2001**