Application Ref: NP/11/303

Application Type  GDO Part 24  
Grid Ref:  SN12990299  
Applicant  Mr E Rees, Openreach  
Agent  
Proposal  Provide two new telephone poles, pole outside 11/12 Hunters Park 8m pole 6.65m out of ground. Pole outside 18/19 9m pole 7.60m out of ground.  
Site Location  11 & 18, Hunters Park, New Hedges, Tenby, Pembrokeshire, SA70 8TP  

Summary  
This is an application made under prior notification GDO Part 24 for 2 no. new telegraph poles on the footway within Hunters Park, a cul de sac. It is considered that the proposed appearance of the telegraph poles and their siting or the footway within a residential street is acceptable.  

Consultee Response  
PCC - Transportation & Environment: No objection  

Public Response  
The application has been publicised via a site notice displayed at the site. 3 no. letters of objection have been received that raise the following comments:  
- The poles will be immediately in front of the house and will obscure all views to and from the house;  
- The poles are ugly;  
- These properties already have telephone lines;  
- Proximity of wiring will be detrimental to hearing problems and sensitivity to vibration;  
- Poles should not be allowed in the 21st Century as other poles have been removed in the area and replaced with underground wiring.  

Policies considered  
LDP Policy 01 - National Park purposes and duty  
LDP Policy 08 - Special Qualities  
LDP Policy 15 - Conservation of the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park  
LDP Policy 30 - Amenity  
LDP Policy 56 - Telecommunications  
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Officer's Appraisal

This application is on the agenda as it is anticipated that the Community Council view may differ from the officer recommendation.

Background & Description

The proposed location for the telegraph poles would be on existing footways within the cul-de-sac of Hunters Park, New Hedges. The site is located within the centre boundary of New Hedges (as defined by the Proposal Maps relating to the Adopted Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Local Development Plan).

Current Proposal

The proposal seeks Prior Approval under Part 24 of the Town & Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 (as amended). One pole is proposed at the western end of the cul-de-sac, on the northern corner of the turning head, directly in front of the boundary fence between no's 11 and 12 Hunters Park. This pole is proposed to be 8m in length with 6.65m above ground.

A second pole is then proposed eastern side of the cul-de-sac on the boundary between no's 18 and 19 Hunters Park. This pole is proposed to be 9m total in height with 7.6m above ground.

As described within a pre-application enquiry for the proposed development, the need for the poles is to provide feeder poles to raise the current low B.T. cables currently servings no's 11-22 (inclusive) Hunters Park. The poles are required due to limited height gains were the existing distributor pole increased.

Key Issues

The main issues in respect of this proposal, having regard to the legislative and policy framework, are considered to be:

- Appearance; and,
- Siting
Appearance

The proposed telegraph poles are of a standard wooden type with a diameter of 0.025m and a maximum height of 7.6m above ground and this design is therefore considered acceptable.

Siting

Policy 15 of the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Local Development Plan (LDP) seeks the conservation of the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park with criteria ‘a’ and ‘b’ resisting development that would cause significant visual intrusion and/or, that would be insensitively and unsympathetically sited within the landscape. Policy 30 of the UDP seeks to avoid development that is of an incompatible scale with its surroundings (criterion ‘b’)) or is visually intrusive (criterion ‘d’).

The proposed locations for the poles, between properties on a road that is urban in nature with existing street lighting columns and telegraph poles are considered acceptable. In addition, the poles are proposed on the boundary between residential properties thereby limiting any detrimental impact upon the amenity currently enjoyed by the residents.

Other Non-material Considerations

Under Part 24 of the Town & Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 (as amended) a Local Planning Authority can only comment on the siting and appearance of the proposal therefore whilst concerns regarding sensitivity to vibration and impact on hearing are noted, they are not a material consideration for the notification process.

Conclusion

It is considered that the proposed telegraph poles in terms of siting and appearance are acceptable and that the prior notification be recommended for approval.

Recommendation

That the application be approved.

Informatives

COAL2S

Working within the Highway requires further consent from the Highway Authority, and the work must be done by an approved contractor. The applicant must therefore apply with full details of the proposal to Mr Marc Owen, Streetcare Manager, County Hall, Haverfordwest, SA61 1TP, Tel number 01437 775404.
Additional Material

Drawings:
1:1250 Site Location Plan - Received 20th July 2011
Proposed Location Plan and Elevation (pole between 11 & 12 Hunters Park)
NTS - Received 20th July 2011
Proposed Location Plan and Elevation (pole between 18 & 19 Hunters Park)
NTS - Received 20th July 2011
Photograph of proposed pole between 18 & 19 Hunters Park - Received 20th July 2011
Ariel Photograph of Hunters Grove (showing proposed location of poles) - Received 20th July 2011