



Our Ref: GVM062 / 17665

28th October 2022

FAO The Headteacher
Meopham School
Wrotham Road
Meopham
Kent
DA13 0AH

Dear Sir/Madam,

**PRECONSULTATION – UPGRADE TO EXISTING RADIO BASE STATION
INSTALLATION AT: MBNL GVM062 / 17665 – WROTHAM ROAD LP, LP OPPOSITE
GRAVENEY LODGE, WROTHAM ROAD, GRAVESEND, KENT, DA13 0PR (NGR: E:
564287, N: 165674)**

Circet 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 Three (UK) Ltd. The proposal is for the upgrade of the above existing MBNL and EE Ltd site, to provide 4G technology to the Meopham, Kent area.

As part of MBNL's continued network improvement program, there is a specific requirement for an upgrade to the ground-based installation at Wrotham Road to ensure that the latest high quality 2G, 3G and 4G service provision continues to be provided in this area of Meopham, Kent. This ensures that coverage and capacity requirements are maintained with the minimalist of amendments to an established radio base station.

This letter therefore invites Meopham School 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 must 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, further advances are proposed, and Central Government has seen the telecoms industry to be at the forefront of economic development.

The proposed works will enable Three (UK) Ltd to provide 4G coverage to this area of St Meopham, Kent. 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 mobile technology. This will allow everyone in the country to benefit from the economic advantages of widespread mobile coverage.



As well as improved mobile signal, improved mobile technology services 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 future technology 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.

Improved mobile 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 upgraded base station 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:

MBNL GVM062 / 17665 – WROTHAM ROAD LP, LP OPPOSITE GRAVENEY LODGE, WROTHAM ROAD, GRAVESEND, KENT, DA13 0PR (NGR: E: 564287, N: 165674)

The proposal relates to the removal of existing pole and redundant equipment cabinets to be replaced with the installation of a new 18-metre-high monopole and associated works as captured on the supplied drawings.

It is of note that the existing monopole will be removed, and the ground made good as soon as reasonably practicable after it is no longer required, once the new monopole is installed and fully operational. This will prevent 'down-time' and avoids interruption to the service provision in this area.

As this is an existing ground based installation, this is sequentially the most preferable site for the operators to upgrade their existing service provision to this cell area. As such no other options have been considered.

The proposal for this MBNL site has been designed within International Commission on Non-Ionising Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) public exposure guidelines.

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.



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

Yours faithfully,

Rob Poulter BA (Hons)
Planning Manager

Gravesham Borough Council