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Prior notification for a 5G telecoms installation

The KDBH Neighbourhood Forum has reviewed the proposal for a 5G telecom installation necessitating a H3G 20m Street Pole and additional equipment cabinets on the grass verge between Warwick Road and the A4141 approaching Knowle village.

It is regrettable the applicant has failed to consider the Knowle, Dorridge and Bentley Heath Neighbourhood Plan which forms part of the Development Plan for the area. If this had been done the applicant would have recognised that Policy U1 Mobile Phone and Broadband Infrastructure is relevant.

The policy recognises the importance of improving modern telecoms equipment and is supportive providing the proposed development is not materially harmful to the character or appearance of the area within which it is located. In this case, we object on the basis that it is in an entirely inappropriate location being within the Knowle Conservation Area. The location is prominent on rising ground and on a bend as one approaches the village, bringing the proposed mast into a position that will be central to the eye-line. It is also in a predominantly residential area. A mast in this location will undoubtedly cause material harm to the character and appearance of the Conservation Area and to the adjoining residential area.

Consequently, this proposal does not comply with the Knowle, Dorridge and Bentley Heath Neighbourhood Plan and should be refused.

The Forum would be willing to work with the Council and the operator to establish whether suitable alternatives are available.