

I am writing to state my opposition to the planning application no. 2023/90052 , for the erection of a 5G mast and equipment cabinets on the land adjacent to Wood Lane, Longley.

The company defends its application as resolving a tension between two contradictory impulses – it describes its choice of site as responding to ‘a well-considered balance between the need to extend practical coverage with that of increasing risk of visual intrusion.’ I am, however, convinced that the detrimental impact of the proposal on the character, beauty and historical importance of this neighbourhood will not be made up for by the potential benefits of improved 5G connectivity.

The site is in close proximity to several listed buildings including the grade II* listed Longley Old Hall. The hall not only contains important architectural features, but, as the former residence of the Ramsden family, it is vitally linked with the evolution of the town and represents an important part of Huddersfield’s heritage. The design of both the pole and cabinets is not in keeping with the visual scene of this historic location and will have a detrimental visual effect on Longley Old Hall and its environs. The photograph provided on the planning application fails to present an accurate representation of the proposed location. As well as being blurry and obscured by fog, the angle from which the photograph has been taken, does not show the proximity of the site to historic buildings or the residential nature of the location.

The pole’s intended position is in the centre of a very residential area which means it will have a negative visual impact on a large number of properties. The height of the pole means that it will dominate the view from many of the windows of my own property and those of my neighbours. The design of the pole means that it would form an eyesore which would detract from the historic and visual beauty of the local area. As the hamlet of Longley adjoins a nature reserve, I also have concerns that the noise pollution produced by the pole/cabinets would have a detrimental effect on local wildlife, particularly birds.

While I welcome the extension of 5G coverage and recognise its benefits, I do not think the positioning of the 5G equipment can be justified.