



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

18TH AUGUST 2020

SITE MEETING

**APPLICATION: 20/0404/10 - Virgin media telecommunications cabinet.
1 THE PARADE, PONTYPRIDD, CF37 4PU**

**REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, DEMOCRATIC SERVICES &
COMMUNICATION**

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1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To consider the outcome of the site inspection in respect of the above-mentioned proposal and to determine the application, as outlined in the report of the Director, Prosperity & Development, attached at Appendix 1.

2. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Members:

- 2.1 Approve the application in accordance with the recommendation of the Director, Prosperity & Development.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 In accordance with Minute No 262 (Planning and Development Committee – 6th August 2020), a site inspection was undertaken on Tuesday 18th August 2020 to consider the visual impact of the proposed development upon the Conservation Area and the potential highways safety implications.
- 3.2 The meeting was attended by the Planning and Development Committee Members County Borough Councillors S. Rees, G. Caple, D. Grehan, P. Jarman, W. Owen and J. Williams.

- 3.3 Apologies for absence were received from Committee Members - County Borough Councillors S. Powderhill, R. Yeo, J. Bonetto, G. Hughes and D. Williams.
- 3.4 Members met at the proposed site of the application, at the corner of 1 The Parade, Pontypridd.
- 3.5 The Planning Officer in attendance informed members that full planning permission is sought for the installation of a Glass Reinforced Plastic (GRP) ground based kiosk in order to improve telecommunications network coverage for the Virgin Media Group in the locality.
- 3.6 The Planning Officer advised Members that the kiosk would measure 350(W) x 775(H) x 255(D) mm and showed Members where it would be located within the footpath outside no. 1 The Parade, against the boundary wall.
- 3.7 The Planning Officer informed Members that no objections had been received as part of the neighbour notification process undertaken for the application. Committee Members were informed that due to the height and size of the proposed installation it is considered that the kiosk would occupy an unobtrusive position within the street scene and would be minor in scale. The Planning Officer highlighted to Members the colour of the proposed installation is green, as shown in the submitted application, but advised Members that should this colour be considered unsuitable a condition could be applied to the application to change this. As such Members were advised that Officer's judgement is that it would not result in an adverse impact upon the character of the Conservation Area.
- 3.8 The Highways Officer addressed Members concerns regarding the impact of the proposed installation on highway safety and the space allowed for wheelchair users and pushchairs. The Highways Officer informed Members that the size of the proposed installation would still allow for 1.3m of walkway on the pavement which Members were informed is greater than required for wheelchair users and pushchairs. For this reason, the Highways Officer informed Members that there were no significant reasons to raise any objections to the application.
- 3.9 Members queried the cabling that would be required for the installation and the impact this could have on the surrounding area. The Planning Officer informed Members that the application has been submitted by a large communications company that already have service in the area with existing cables.
- 3.10 Members also noted that the installation would be one of many across the Borough with the Planning Officer informing Members that this was part of

a wider network of installations to improve the telecommunications network coverage for the Virgin Media Group in the locality. Members were reminded the reason that planning permission is required for this development was due to the locality of the proposed installation in a Conservation Area, and that planning permission for such apparatus is not required outside of a Conservation Area.

3.11 The Chair thanked the officers for the report and closed the meeting.