



An  
Bord  
Pleanála

**Board Direction**  
**BD-017834-24**  
**ABP-312964-22**

The submissions on this file and the Inspector's report were considered at a Board meeting held on 21/11/2023, 08/04/2024, and the 09/10/2024.

The Board decided to grant permission. The Board noted the Inspectors report and concurred with the recommendation to grant, but the Boards reasoning differed to the Inspectors in that it concluded a new structure is appropriate because the alternative structure, the grain silo is no longer in use as a grain silo. The silo's current primary use is a support structure for telecommunication equipment.

The Board had regard to the Athy LAP 2021-2027, policy EDT1 Economic Development and objective EDT01.2. On Balance the Board considered that in this instance the new mast is appropriate as the alternative location, that currently accommodates the sharing of masts, is in the main a vacant structure the regeneration of which would align with the Athy LAP policy for Economic Development. The intensification of its use for telecommunication infrastructure may undermine the achieving of this objective. On this basis the Board did not consider this a suitable alternative location to the proposed site for the mast structure.

The Board concurred with both the Planning Authority and the Inspector that the proposed mast would not seriously injure the visual amenities or landscape character of the area, and would not be contrary to the overall provisions of the Kildare County Development and the Athy Local Area Plan

**Reasons and Considerations**

Having regard to:

(a) national policy regarding the provision of mobile communications services.

(b) the Telecommunications Antennae and Support Structures, Guidelines for Planning Authorities issued by the Department of the Environment and Local Government in July 1996, as updated by Circular Letter PL/07/12 issued by the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government on the 19th day of October 2012.

(c) the policy of the planning authority, as set out in the Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029, to support the provision of telecommunications infrastructure.

(d) the Enterprise and Employment zoning objective governing the site under the Athy Town Development Plan 2021-2027, and the policies contained therein.

(e) the nature and scale of the proposed telecommunications support structure,

(f) the existing pattern of development in the area

(g) the planning history of the site.

it is considered that, subject to compliance with the conditions set out below, the proposed development would not seriously injure the visual amenities or landscape character of the area and would not be contrary to the overall provisions of the current development plans for the area. The proposed development would, therefore, be in accordance with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

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### **Conditions**

1. The development shall be carried out and completed in accordance with the plans and particulars lodged with the application, as amended by the further plans and particulars submitted on the 24th day of October 2019, except as may otherwise be required in order to comply with the following conditions. Where such conditions require details to be agreed with the planning authority, the developer shall agree such details in writing with the planning authority prior to commencement of development and the development shall be carried out and completed in accordance with the agreed particulars.

**Reason:** In the interest of clarity.

2. The proposed support structure shall be finished in a dark green or dark grey colour, and the proposed security fence and equipment cabinets shall be finished throughout in a dark green colour only.

**Reason:** In the interest of visual amenity and orderly development.

3. Surface water drainage arrangements for the proposed development shall comply with the requirements of the planning authority. Reason: In the interest of public health. 4. No advertising signage shall be erected on the monopole mast, equipment cabinets or security fence. Reason: In the interest of visual amenity.

**Board Member**

  
Mary Henchy

**Date:** 10/10/2024