

An Bord Pleanála



PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACTS 2000 TO 2015

Wexford County

Planning Register Reference Number: 20160583

An Bord Pleanála Reference Number: PL 26.247101

APPEAL by Skytel Networks Limited care of Doyle Kent Planning Partnership Limited of 71 Carysfort Avenue, Blackrock, County Dublin against the decision made on the 20th day of July, 2016 by Wexford County Council to refuse permission.

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT: Erection of a 24.4 metre high lattice support telecommunications mast with associated equipment cabin, metal mesh surround and all associated site works at Forth Commons, Forth Mountain, Wexford.

DECISION

REFUSE permission for the above proposed development based on the reasons and considerations set out below.

MATTERS CONSIDERED

In making its decision, the Board had regard to those matters to which, by virtue of the Planning and Development Acts and Regulations made thereunder, it was required to have regard. Such matters included any submissions and observations received by it in accordance with statutory provisions.

REASONS AND CONSIDERATIONS

1. Having regard to existing telecommunications towers, masts, fencing and ancillary structures in the area and the site's wide zone of influence, it is considered that the proposed development would seriously injure the visual amenities of the area and would contravene both Objective TC06 and Objective NH1 of the Wexford County Development Plan 2013-2019 as it would damage or threaten the integrity of the adjacent proposed Natural Heritage Area which is a site of national importance, which is a high amenity area, and detract from views to designated 'Landscape of Greater Sensitivity'. The proposed development would, therefore, be contrary to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.
2. The Board is not satisfied that the developer has satisfactorily demonstrated that it is not possible to co-locate with the existing telecommunications towers in close proximity to the proposed site. The requirement to maximise the use of existing masts and sites is set out in Policy TC04 outlined in the Wexford County Development Plan 2013-2019 and in the guidelines relating to telecommunications antennas and support structures which were issued by the Department of the Environment and Local Government to planning authorities in July, 1996. The proposed development would, therefore, materially contravene the policy of the planning authority and would be contrary to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

In deciding not to accept the Inspector's recommendation to grant permission, the Board did not agree that the proposed structure would not have a significant visual impact at this location, particularly when viewed in combination with existing telecommunications installations at the site. With regard to the matter of possible co-location, the Board was not satisfied with the applicant's reasoning as to why this approach was not possible.

**Member of An Bord Pleanála
duly authorised to authenticate
the seal of the Board.**

Dated this day of 2016.