

Planning and Development Acts 2000 to 2021

Planning Authority: Meath County Council

Planning Register Reference Number: 21/1595

APPEAL by Eir (Eircom Limited) care of Towercom Limited of Usher House, Main Street, Dundrum, Dublin against the decision made on the 8th day of August, 2021 by Meath County Council to refuse permission.

Proposed Development: The construction of multi-operator telecommunications infrastructure comprised of; a 24 metres lattice tower (overall structure height of 25.5 metres), antennas, dishes and associated equipment, together with ground level equipment cabinets and all associated site works at Eir Exchange, Main Street, Summerhill, County Meath.

Decision

REFUSE permission for the above proposed development in accordance with the reasons and considerations set out below.

Matters Considered

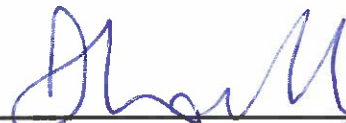
In making its decision, the Board had regard to those matters to which, by virtue of the Planning and Development Acts and Regulations made thereunder, it was required to have regard. Such matters included any

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submissions and observations received by it in accordance with statutory provisions.

Reasons and Considerations

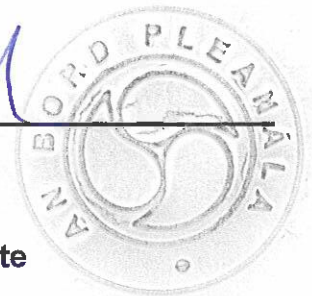
Under Section 4.3 of the 'Telecommunications Antennae and Support Structures Guidelines for Planning Authorities', it is stated that "only as a last resort and if the alternatives suggested in the previous paragraph are either unavailable or unsuitable should free-standing masts be located in a residential area or beside schools. If such a location should become necessary, sites already developed for utilities should be considered and mast and antennae should be designed and adapted for the specific location. The support structure should be kept to the minimum height, consistent with effective operation and should be monopole (or poles) rather than a latticed tripod or square structure". Notwithstanding the fact that the site is already occupied by a telecommunications support structure, the proposal is for a replacement structure of increased scale and bulk and is a lattice-type structure that would have a significantly increased and detrimental visual impact at this urban location on a small site lacking screening. In addition, the lattice-type design of the proposal would be detrimental to the setting and context of a designated Architectural Conservation Area and would be contrary to Policy HER POL 19 and HER POL 20 of the Meath County Development Plan 2021-2027. The proposed development would be contrary to national policy in relation to telecommunication infrastructure and would, therefore, be contrary to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.



Dave Walsh

Member of An Bord Pleanála

**duly authorised to authenticate
the seal of the Board.**



Dated this *8th* day of *March* 2022