

Planning and Development Acts 2000 to 2021

Planning Authority: Longford County Council

Planning Register Reference Number: 21/95

APPEAL by Eircom Limited (t/a Eir) care of Towercom of Unit 2, Listowel Business Development Centre, Clieveragh Industrial Estate, Listowel, County Kerry against the decision made on the 16th day of December, 2021 by Longford County Council to refuse permission.

Proposed Development: Erection of a 20-metre-high lattice telecommunications support structure together with antennas, dishes and associated equipment at Eir Exchange, Barrack Lane, Granard, County Longford.

Decision

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


Reasons and Considerations

Having regard to:

- (a) the Guidelines relating to Telecommunications Antennae and Support Structures which were issued by the Department of the Environment and Local Government in July 1996,
- (b) the highly visible context of the existing 21-metre free-standing structure within 200 metres of the subject site, and
- (c) the close proximity of the proposed structure to another existing mast south of the site along Barrack Lane,

it is considered that the proposed development does not comply with national guidelines as the applicant has failed to demonstrate sufficiently that the subject site is a last and only location in Granard which could serve to enhance existing coverage in the area. In addition, the Board considered that the application is contrary to policy CPO 5.176 of the Longford County Development Plan 2021-2027 which requires documentary evidence as to the non-availability of co-location on existing structures, and requires co-location where the number of masts located in any single area is considered to have an excessive concentration. The Board further considered the proposal to be contrary to policy CPO 5.174 of the development plan which requires orderly development of telecommunications infrastructure and was not satisfied that the applicant had demonstrated that the necessary fibre connectivity could not be facilitated to existing infrastructure located in proximity to the subject site.

The proposal was, therefore, considered to represent a haphazard and piecemeal approach to providing the required coverage in the area to the detriment of the visual amenities of the town, and to be contrary to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.



Stephen Brophy

Member of An Bord Pleanála

duly authorised to authenticate

the seal of the Board.



Dated this *20* day of *March* 2023.