



An
Bord
Pleanála

Board Order
ABP-315862-23

Planning and Development Acts 2000 to 2021

Planning Authority: Cork County Council

Planning Register Reference Number: 22/05119

Appeal by Eircom Limited (trading as Eir) care of Towercom of Usher House, Main Street, Dundrum, Dublin against the decision made on the 24th day of January, 2023 by Cork County Council to refuse permission.

Proposed Development: Replacement of a 12-metre-high wooden pole with a 15-metre-high monopole telecommunications structure together with antennas, dishes and associated telecommunications equipment at the Eir Exchange, Lower Road, Knocknagree, County Cork.

Decision

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

Reasons and Considerations

1. Having regard to the nature and scale of the proposed development, for a 15-metre telecommunications monopole and associated infrastructure, in the centre of the village of Knocknagree, it is considered that the proposed development would result in a significant and negative visual impact on the village centre and, in particular, on the Fair Green, the low-rise traditional buildings making up the streetscape around it, and the nearby Church, which is a National Monument and on the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH). Furthermore, the proposed development would be contrary to national guidance, as set out in section 4.3 of the Telecommunications Antennae and Support Structures Guidelines for Planning Authorities issued by the Department of the Environment and Local Government in July 1996, which seeks to limit such development in town and villages, and would be contrary to the Cork County Development Plan 2022-2028, which highlights the importance of ensuring that the landscape, both urban and rural, are protected from any significant impact caused by telecommunications infrastructure (Section 13.8.3). The proposed development would, therefore, be contrary to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

2. It is considered that, by reason of its scale and overbearing nature, the proposed development would seriously injure the visual amenity and enjoyment of the protected structure in the vicinity, namely the Fair Green, and would materially contravene County Development Plan Objective HE 16-14 of the Cork County Development Plan 2022-2028, which seeks to protect structures on the Record of Protected Structures, their curtilage and attendant grounds. The proposed development would, therefore, be contrary to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.



Martina Hennessy

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

Dated this 17th day of June 2023.