



An
Bord
Pleanála

Board Order
ABP-319503-24

Planning and Development Acts 2000 to 2022

Planning Authority: Westmeath County Council

Planning Register Reference Number: 2460018

APPEAL by Willow Park Residents Association care of Dolores Walsh of 15 Cliborne Way, Clara Road, Moate, County Westmeath against the decision made on the 19th day of March 2024 by Westmeath County Council to grant, subject to conditions, a permission to Vantage Towers Limited care of Charterhouse Infrastructure Consultants of Unit 2 HQ, Market Street, Listowel, County Kerry.

Proposed Development: Erection of a 24 metre high lattice tower together with antennas, dishes, associated telecommunications equipment and a proposed access track, all enclosed in security fencing, at Willow Park Football Club, Bonavalley, Athlone, County Westmeath.

Decision

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

Reasons and Considerations

Having regard to the Guidelines on Telecommunications Antennae and Support Structures, issued by the Department of the Environment and Local Government in July 1996 (as revised by Circular PL07/12), which state that 'In the vicinity of larger towns and in city suburbs operators should endeavour to locate in industrial estates or in industrially zoned land,' it is considered that the applicant has not submitted adequate justification for the proposed site, having particular regard to the absence of full details of investigations of alternative sites, and a robust assessment of the feasibility of same, and the presence of extensive areas of industrial lands in close proximity to the subject site. The proposed development would be contrary to the Guidelines relating to Telecommunications Antennae and Support Structures issued to planning authorities under Section 28 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and would, therefore, be contrary to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

The Board considered that the proposed development is a project for the purposes of the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive. However, the Board concluded that the proposed development does not fall within a class of development set out in Part 1 or Part 2 of Schedule 5 to the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended, and, therefore, no preliminary examination, screening for Environmental Impact Assessment, or Environmental Impact Assessment is required.



Liam McGree

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

Dated this 25 day of FEBRUARY 2025.