ADUR & WORTHING
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Date: 29 January 2021
Service: Development Management
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Our Reference: AWDM/1158/20
Your Reference: APP/Y3805/W/20/3263605

Dear Cassandra Low

Town and Country Planning Act 1990

Appeal by Cornerstone Limited

Site Address: Grass verge on north side of Upper Shoreham Road (to south of Buckingham Park), Shoreham, BN43 6BE

I write with reference to the above planning appeal.

It is considered that the original Officer's Report, forwarded earlier, contains an adequate summary of the Council's case and the LPA will not therefore be submitting a full statement on this occasion. However, I would like to make some additional points in respect of the affected trees, following receipt of the appellant's statement.Dear

The affected trees are some distance from the carriageway and footpath and are unlikely to need pruning for highway safety reasons, such as branches overhanging the footpath. The proposed development would therefore bring forward works that are currently unnecessary.

The appellants also state that it is important to note that the trees are not subject to a TPO. However, the trees are owned and maintained by Adur District Council and there would therefore be no benefit in making a TPO as the trees would not ordinarily be under threat, particularly as there are no neighbours that are likely to have an interest in the trees. Council owned trees are sometimes given formal protection to prevent neighbouring property owners from cutting back to their boundaries. In this case, this does not apply.

The Council reiterates its concerns that the proposal will cause harm to the trees in the short and long term. Like a lot of Councils, we have declared a climate emergency (in July 2019) and the retention of trees (and enabling them to achieve their full size and spread with the multiple benefits that provides) is an important part of responding to the climate emergency. The Council's Planning & Climate Change Position Statement states:

2.11 *Trees play an important role in the sequestration of carbon dioxide and Friends of the Earth suggest that tree coverage should be increased by at least 20%.*

A copy of the Position Statement is attached as Appendix 1.To allow this appeal and the installation of telecommunications equipment so close to the trees would inevitably lead to future pressure to regularly maintain the trees, which would not be the case if the mast was not installed so close to them. Such works would further erode their public amenity value and, together with the siting of another large monopole, would harm the setting of the park and the visual amenities of the locality to the detriment of the environment. The Inspector is therefore respectfully requested to dismiss the appeal.

Yours sincerely

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