

KENTMERE PARISH MEETING
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Lake District National Park Authority
Murley Moss
Oxenholme Road
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24 January 2018

Dear Sirs

Planning Application reference 7/2017/5817
Installation of lattice tower and associated works

Views of the Kentmere Valley open up just to the north of the Hollingsworth & Vose works. Church Hill, the church and the adjacent valley form the centre of visual focus as one proceeds up the valley. It is the core of the community, characterized by traditional Lake District buildings in an archetypal Lake District landscape setting, and framed with a backdrop of rough crags and fells. This part of the valley is prominently in view from many footpaths, several roads and from the open fells.

By its siting, height, design and appearance this mast represents an alien visual intrusion in the landscape. Almost as high as the church tower, it will dominate the view from many angles. The mast will detract from the historic character of its setting and diminish the landscape qualities of the valley.

As such the proposal is in conflict with:-

- Core Strategy Policies CS01, CS02, CS10, CS25 and CS27
- Joint Structure Plan saved policy T33
- Local Plan saved policy UT7

If external pressures oblige the Planning Authority to approve an installation of this type within the Kentmere Valley, the Parish Meeting contends that there are several issues to be resolved before doing so.

Siting

In order to explore the possibility of selecting a less intrusive location, it would seem reasonable to require the applicant to conduct exhaustive research into potential alternative sites which would be less objectionable. The results of such research appear to be necessary for the Planning Authority to have sufficient information to reach a decision. It appears that

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the present site has been chosen as the least expensive and most convenient, and the Parish Meeting does not accept that these are valid criteria. The Parish Meeting is aware of the need to support farming communities and this is equally supported by LDNP policy CS23.

Height and design of the mast

A note on the applicant's drawings suggests that the tower height may be increased, dependent on tree clutter. Any planning consent should not confer the latitude to increase the tower height. The application does not demonstrate that screening such as appropriate trees, alternative designs for the tower, or alternative finishes have been considered.

Method Statements

The applicant should be required to provide Construction Method Statements, and an Arboricultural Report and Tree Protection Plan.

Electronic communication and mobile telephone provision.

If the justification for this mast, whilst not complying with the planning policies above, is to improve public safety it has been designed to do so to a very limited degree. While it may let the emergency services communicate with each other it does not enable the public to report an emergency in the first place as there is no provision for a commercial mobile telephone service accessible to 999 calls. Visitors greatly outnumber residents almost all the year, and it is generally visitors who require emergency assistance. Most visitors carry mobile phones, and, as is stated in many presentations about the World Heritage status, visitors expect world class communications. An emergency service frequently required in Kentmere is Mountain Rescue and there is no confirmation that they will be provided with the necessary equipment and access rights.

National Planning Policy Framework requires that developments such as this must be consistent with the development of sustainable communities, and in the absence of commercial mobile telephone capability this application does not comply with that requirement. In our view compliance with this requirement is not achieved simply by stating that there will be no objection in the event that a commercial operator requests permission to install the equipment necessary for a commercial service.

We trust these objections and comments will be given due consideration, and in the event that this application is considered by the LDNPA Development Control Committee we may wish to attend and speak.

Yours faithfully

Peter Lansberry
Chairman
For Kentmere Parish Meeting