

**Report into the Precedents and Environment Applicable to CA//17/02109 |
Erection of an amateur radio mast and aerial. | 32 Godwin Road,
Thanington, CT1 3UF**

22nd November 2017

This report has been compiled on behalf of Mr Martins, 32 Godwin Rd in support of his application for planning permission to erect a 10m Mast to support an aerial at the above premises, an end terrace bungalow in an enclosed area.

It highlights the following planning matters:

Section1. National Precedents, Similar Structures in Gardens throughout the country.

Section 2. Local precedents, similar structures in the local area.

Section 3. The current quality of the local Street Scene

Section 4. Visibility Issues

Main Points

There are many examples of similar and larger aerial systems in the local area and in the UK as a whole. The proposed object will sit well in the environment and will not detract from the natural beauty of the area. There are many vertical and horizontal objects in the area which serve to mask its presence and can be exploited to help camouflage it. There are few windows that overlook it. Visibility depends on the viewpoint of the observer – directly opposite from the pavement for example it will be 60% visible when fully extended and less than 5% visible when down. It is less visible to drivers.

Report Compiled by Stuart Dixon, MInstLM, MBCS, GCGI

SD Plus Ltd

07703026329

Section 1 – National Precedents

The SOS for community and Planning describes Amateur Radio as a hobby carried out in people's homes and back gardens. (National Planning Policy Framework)

Here are two typical examples of amateur radio antenna \ mast combinations in the back yards of the 55000 strong UK Radio Community. (Both are larger than the installation proposed.)(RSGB)



Section 2- Samples of Radio Masts - Local to Canterbury

There are 180 users of amateur radio antennas in the Canterbury City Council Area. (QRZ.COM)

A selection of these were photographed on 22nd November to provide a snapshot with which to compare the single 30 foot (10m) mast and aerial proposed. Further comments appear with each photograph.



High visibility from the road



Several times the height of the bungalow – highly visible from the road.



Highly visible from the road



Note houses back onto the main road

Section 3 - Current Quality of the Local Street Scene



Perspective

The application is to install a retractable radio mast on a property in an area adjacent to an industrial park in Thanington Next.

The property in question (marked here in the centre of the map with a grey circular pointer) sits on the corner of Alfred Road and Godwin Road. It is surrounded by dilapidated street furniture and perpetual and persistent fly tipped rubbish which has a regular turnover and varies in volume.

The photographs included below show the many overhead cables crisscrossing the scene via several well populated telegraph poles. From the north west, the target antenna used to make this short report is difficult to spot against the many other vertical objects in the scene. (This could work to advantage, as the lower part of proposed mast could be made to look like a telegraph pole, while the antenna could blend in with the wires when the antenna was parked at a certain height.)

Item 1 – Electricity Sub Station

Opposite the rear gate of 32 Godwin and on the corner of the south side of Alfred Rd, within 15m of the proposal is an Electricity Sub Station containing a number of Grey Objects and surrounded by a grey steel palisade fence.

Because of its open nature this is littered with several large pieces of household rubbish. Two views are shown – notably no attempt has been made to improve its appearance.





Intentionally Blank

Item 2 – Presence of Household and General Waste

The street scene is cluttered with many council waste containers left on the pavement from day to day with rubbish accumulating around them.

Two Refrigerators had been abandoned in front of properties on a long-term basis, these had been there since the early part of the year. Both were within 20m of the proposals location.

An abandoned mattress lay on the grass verge forty meters to the south of the proposal.

A persistent fly-tipping site holding up to half a tonne of rubbish is located on the corner of Godwin and Cockering Road this has a regular turn over.

Overhead there are many examples of TV and Radio Antenna going back to the sixties and seventies.

Item 3 - Street Furniture

In checking the Street furniture – this was found to be dilapidated and in need of a paint job.

Item 4 – Overall Appearance.

The overall appearance is the area is run down and litter strewn. Front facing gardens are used for parking and storing caravans and boats, vehicle maintenance as well as storing rubbish.



More than one abandoned refrigerator in the scene observed on consecutive visits





40m from proposed site and seen on consecutive visits over the month



Persistent Fly-Tipping observed over six months



Persistent Fly-Tipping observed over six months

Section 4 - Visibility



It was hard to find windows that overlook the property. Those closest had frosted glass. The object is most visible from the pavement opposite on Godwin Rd – elsewhere it is less visible depending on its height and the number of vertical and horizontal objects between it and the viewer eye.

Testing Visibility

A test Target was positioned to illustrate the minimal visual impact the proposed antenna would have in its new environment, at its full height.

Conclusions – visibility testing

While limited in size, the test target only becomes visible from about 50 meters away when approaching from the South along Godwin Rd. This is due to the two tone back drop with a prominence of green \ and dark grey. The telegraph wires abundant throughout Godwin Road help to obscure the object.

Along Alfred Rd the test target is obscured initially by two tall trees and becomes 10% visible within 30m when approaching from the East.

Its visibility is limited to 20m from the north along Godwin Rd as it becomes obscured by other vertical and horizontal objects.

While the proposed camouflage scheme is not part of the planning application. It is fair to say the visibility of the proposed antenna and mast can be further reduced by keeping it at certain heights and painting it in an appropriate pattern.

Views of the Test Target

Seen in the clear 60% visible above the fence line at 15 to 20m due west.





15% Visible in Winter from Alfred Road



Obscured in the vertical and horizontal plane by telegraph wires and poles



Test Target - one of many vertical objects

From the fence line of number 32. Less than 15% visibility when the gate is closed.

