

From: Graham Stuart MP <grahamstuartmp@parliament.uk>

Sent: 16 February 2023 16:56

To:

Subject: Telegraph Poles in Tickton (Case Ref: GS53894)

Dear

I have received a number of emails regarding the construction of telegraph poles in Tickton.

A Member of Parliament does not have a role in making individual planning decisions or policies, which are for the local planning authority to take. I would only expect to get involved if there were indications that due process was not being applied, or if there were specific questions to which constituents felt they could not obtain a response themselves.

Having said that, I am concerned in this case because I want to make sure the correct procedures have been adopted. I have already written to the relevant Government minister, Rachel Maclean MP, who is Minister of State for Housing and Planning. She says as follows:

I am unable to comment on individual cases, but I can offer the following general comments on the matter.

The Government's ambition is to deliver nationwide gigabit-capable broadband as soon as possible, including full-fibre connection to premises. This will give people more freedom to live and work flexibly and be instrumental in supporting economic growth, communities, and social inclusion. We all need access to reliable, high-quality digital connectivity, and the COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated how vital digital connectivity is to enable people to stay connected and businesses to thrive and grow.

Permitted development rights for telecommunications infrastructure have been developed to ensure planning supports this mission. In some cases, permitted development rights require the applicant to seek prior approval from the local planning authority. This is not the case for the construction, installation, alteration or replacement of a telegraph pole, cabinet or line, in connection with the provision of fixed-line broadband. Limits on the ability to install such equipment are provided in the Electronic Communications Code (Conditions and Restrictions) Regulations 2003, which sets out circumstances in which lines may not be installed underground. These regulations are available here: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2003/2553/made>.

The Government considers that there are sufficient measures in place to control the use of telegraph poles for broadband infrastructure by providers designated as Telecom Infrastructure Operators.

Additional conditions and limitations in the General Permitted Development Order 2015 (as amended) restrict the scale and height of apparatus that may be installed without planning permission. Operators are also expected to adhere to the Cabinet and Pole Siting Code of Practice to ensure new apparatus is installed sensitively. The Cabinet and Pole Siting Code of Practice is available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/cabinet-siting-and-pole-siting-code-of-practice-issue-2-2016>

If you have not already done so, I would urge you to send your comments to the planning department at East Riding of Yorkshire Council to ensure they know your feelings

(planning@eastriding.gov.uk). You may also find it helpful to raise your concerns with your local Councillors. If you need to check their contact details, these are at:

<https://www.gov.uk/find-your-local-councillors> on the Council website: www.eastriding.gov.uk.

I have also written to broadband provider based in Hull, Connexin, to ask what their full intentions are, to East Riding of Yorkshire Council (executive director of planning and regeneration, Alan Menzies) and also to Ward councillors Bernard Gateshill and Kevin Beaumont to see what level of concern they have experienced.

I will of course keep you updated of developments.

Kind regards,

Graham

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