

Appeal 6007663

Interested party comments

Appeal type	Planning
Appeal procedure	Written
Appeal site	74 Eastern Avenue, chippenham, SN15 3LW
Appellant contact details	Andrew Hughes ahughes@2t2t.co.uk 07777647037
Local planning authority	Wiltshire
Application number	PL/2025/09769

Interested party 1

Comments

I am writing in support of the proposed amateur radio antenna installation and respectfully urge that planning permission be granted.

Amateur radio is, by its very nature, a technical and experimental pursuit. Licensed operators are not merely users of fixed, commercial systems; they are required to develop, test, and refine their own equipment and operating techniques. This includes the design, construction, and evaluation of a wide range of antenna systems. Antennas are not interchangeable or purely aesthetic structures—they are fundamental scientific instruments that directly determine performance, efficiency, and the ability to communicate over varying distances and frequency bands.

Different types of antennas are necessary to support this experimentation. These may include wire antennas (such as dipoles and long-wire configurations), vertical antennas, directional beam antennas, and temporary or rotatable systems. Each serves a distinct purpose: some are optimized for long-distance (HF) communication, others for local or emergency communication (VHF/UHF), and many are used to study propagation effects, signal behavior, and interference mitigation. Without the ability to install and adjust such antennas, meaningful experimentation becomes impossible.

Importantly, ongoing self-training and experimentation are not optional aspects of amateur radio—they are embedded within the licensing framework. Licensees are expected to advance their technical knowledge, improve their station capabilities, and contribute to the wider understanding of radio communications. This spirit of experimentation has historically led to significant innovations and continues to support skills development in electronics, engineering, and communications.

Radio ham rescues epileptic girl on remote Exmoor campsite

🕒 24 August 2017



| Mike Everett heard the distress call by chance from his home 60 miles away in Bristol

An amateur radio enthusiast helped rescue a girl who was having an epileptic seizure while camping in a remote part of Exmoor.

Mike Everett was scanning the airwaves at his home 60 miles away in Bristol when he heard a mayday call.

He was able to direct paramedics to the area after one of the camping party used a radio set to call for help as there was no mobile phone signal.

The 12-year-old girl was taken to hospital and has since fully recovered.

Mr Everett said he was listening to his radio when he heard the word "ambulance" and knew "by the tone of the man's voice that he needed help straightaway".

The RSGB and Voluntary Interceptors



Voluntary Interceptors memorial plaque at the NRC

History

At the outbreak of WWII in 1939 MI5 established a unit known as the Radio Security Service (RSS) to detect and monitor enemy radio transmissions.

With few resources to hand Lord Sandhurst approached Arthur Watts, President of Radio Society of Great Britain, who through the Society handpicked and recruited radio amateurs with advanced Morse skills.

These volunteers became known as the Voluntary Interceptors (VIs).

So vital and distinguished was the role of the RSS that it eventually became part of the overall Secret Intelligence Service (SIS).

In 2013 a memorial plaque was presented by The Lord Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire Sir Henry Aubrey-Fletcher to commemorate the work of the 1,500 radio amateurs as Voluntary Interceptors.

Operating from their homes, initially the role of the VI was to monitor for secret service agents, located in Britain, sending radio transmissions back to Germany.

Later the VIs discovered and monitored the encrypted communications network of the *Abwehr*, the German Secret Intelligence Service.

Messages received, all coded, were copied on to log sheets and sent to P.O. Box 25, an address in Barnet, where they were sorted and then sent on to Bletchley Park for

Amateur radio also plays a recognized role in emergency and resilience communications. Effective operation in such scenarios depends on well-tested, functional antenna systems that have been properly installed and evaluated in real-world conditions.

While I appreciate that visual impact and planning considerations must be balanced, I believe that appropriately designed amateur radio antennas can be installed in a manner that is both respectful of the local environment and essential for fulfilling the technical and educational purposes of the hobby.

For these reasons, I strongly support the approval of this application. Restricting antenna installation would significantly undermine the ability of licensed operators to meet their obligations, pursue legitimate technical experimentation, and contribute to both the hobby and the wider community.

Thank you for your consideration. [Read more](#)

Supporting documents

No documents

Interested party 2

Comments

I am writing in support of the proposed amateur radio antenna at 74 Eastern Avenue, Chippenham.

Amateur radio is a regulated activity in the UK under Ofcom and is recognised for its role in technical education and radio communications. Its operation requires suitable antenna infrastructure.

Amateur radio has a documented history of public service. During the Second World War, operators contributed communications expertise. In the UK, amateur radio operators continue to provide voluntary support in emergency situations where conventional communications may be limited.

Organisations such as RAYNET provide structured emergency communications assistance to local authorities and emergency services. The applicant is a member of RAYNET, indicating involvement in this recognised voluntary emergency communications network.

The proposed development supports a recognised communications activity with educational and public service value, and requires appropriate antenna infrastructure to function.

I respectfully encourage approval of this application. [Read more](#)

Supporting documents

[RSGB.png \(/published-document/87caaa93-52b3-4fb0-8a6e-39bbaafb200e\)](#)
[Exmoor.png \(/published-document/0ff8550c-b0ea-4f11-ba66-b0807e9dc132\)](#)

Interested party 3

Comments

These large Aerials are on show at the bottom of my garden they are unsightly as they are always at full mast and can also be seen above his roof. Recently there have been some new poles appear at the end of there garden with some sort of wire connecting to the aerials which are at the top of his garden.
My concerns are this might cause an issue if I ever thought about selling my house [Read more](#)

Supporting documents

No documents

Interested party 4

Comments

The antennas have already been put up and are an absolute eyesore. If the current antenna are to be replaced with even bigger ones, then it'll be even worse!
As for the argument of 'what about an emergency ' .. laughable at best. [Read more](#)

Supporting documents

No documents

Interested party 5

Comments

The applicant claims he is the only radio operator in his town with the vital equipment. I work with someone who is a radio ham and they know many amateur radio enthusiasts with equipment similar to his including a local club also within Chippenham.

This should be not considered in the application as it's untrue [Read more](#)

Supporting documents

No documents

Interested party 6

Comments

Having carried out regular work in this area, we are familiar with the surrounding environment and existing visual landscape. In our opinion, the proposed aerial installation would not constitute an eyesore or have a materially harmful visual impact. The area already contains a number of existing structures and obstacles within the general sightline, and the proposed radio masts would sit comfortably within that established setting without appearing unduly prominent or intrusive.

In addition, the masts are designed as retractable installations, allowing them to be lowered or minimised when not in active use, further reducing any visual impact on the surrounding area. [Read more](#)

Interested party 7

Comments

I can understand people have some concerns about safety but ham radio operators do follow rules and regulations. Unfortunately the HF spectrum does require large antennas to operate. Hopefully you can find it in your heart to allow Andy to continue his hobby. [Read more](#)

Interested party 8

Comments

The amateur radio service worldwide is not hampered by private persons objecting. It is part of personal freedom that everyone has the right to. I suggest that if this result is negative that an alternative site be offered by the town and the local residents bear the cost of the purchase of equipment that can be remote controlled via the internet. In cases where mobile phone transmitters have been erected near radio amateurs this has been the solution forcing the radio ham to move as mobile phone equipment serves the general public and the radio ham is forced to relocate his equipment,all costs including rent of an alternative location and transport costs to and from the new location are reimbursed from the mobile phone operator.

A similar situation exists here from neighbours objections. They should be confronted with possible costs if the application is rejected.

If you have a local venue for the general public like a park with a power supply it may be possible to get this gentleman opening up his station for park visitors.this is very common in combination with a weather station. The radio hams rights can not be ignored. Here in ASEAN every radio ham has a sign on his house saying emergency communications may be made here and through flooding and earthquake this service is regularly use. Look at your dependency on the internet , if it goes down you are confronted with a serious problem I think this gentleman is a RAYNET member.

Regards Dr Peter Wright G4MHA HS0ZOG Bangkok Thailand member of RAST the Radio amateurs society of Thailand p.s our boss is the king of Thailand

[Read more](#)

Interested party 9

Comments	As a licensed amateur radio operator myself I support the approval for erecting of radio antennas for amateur radio use. The antennas and transmissions pose no risk to the public or the environment and during an emergency essential broadcasts can still be made even when there is no electricity. Read more
Supporting documents	No documents

Interested party 10

Comments	Whilst the actual antennae are not I believe more unsightly than the surrounding area, the claim made by the applicant that he is the only person in the town with the type of radio equipment he has which can be used in case of local or national emergency is at best fantasy, and at worst a dishonest claim which he is using in a cynical attempt at coercion over other parties. There are at least 6 fully licenced and equipped amateur radio users listed within a 1.5 miles radius along with an established amateur radio club (ref QRZ.com search), so to grant the appeal on the basis of the applicant being unique would be unwise and could open the planning officers to allegations of ignoring known false information. Read more
Supporting documents	No documents

Interested party 11

Comments	I object to this application The amount and size of the aeriels on this property is very excessive, although i live a few streets away his property is opposite my mother in laws, and who is in her later years, she spends alot of time looking out of the window and finds these aeriels an eyesore, and in recent times her TV needs retuning, by me, very often, so she feels these are the cause, . I feel sorry for his neighbours on either side. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] His reasoning for the need of the anteana, seems very weak, offering to assist the police, if there communication links break down. I feel it is selfish on his part to upset and unsettle this tight community Read more
Supporting documents	No documents

Interested party 12

Comments	I would like to object to this application. Being a resident of the Monkton Park community these structures are an absolute eyesore. They are HUGE. The longest antenna is currently looking VERY unstable in the wind. There is a school a few hundred meters from the property, and children are walking daily pass this house. We are a very windy area being on a hill. This is an accident waiting to
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happen. I am also concerned about for all of the neighbours. On investigation I have discovered.... If you are too close to a high-power antenna while it is transmitting, the radio waves can heat your body's tissues, similar to how food is cooked in a microwave. Now all of the neighbours homes & gardens are very close together so this is a real concern. As this is an area of elderly residents many have pacemakers. I believe that the antennas can affect pacemakers, tvs, radios etc. so this is also something else that needs to be investigated. We are a lovely community here on Monkton Park and I know that residents are concerned that the visual impact of so many structures will have an impact on house prices. Please take all these issues and concerns into consideration and keep our beautiful Monkton park community a happy one. [Read more](#)

Supporting documents

No documents

Interested party 13

Comments

Whilst the radio antenna would help in an emergency situation, surely the existing setup would be sufficient, whilst not creating more of an eyesore. Equally if this of importance it could be setup in a more suitable location rather than a residential area (for example and industrial estate).

I would be concerned that a significantly larger structure could make selling my property difficult as it would be a significant eyesore, which will be visible from much greater distance due to the proposed height above the roofline.

Finally there is the safety issue of have this level of equipment in a residential area that is more susceptible to high winds, which can in turn cause injury or damage to property.

Whilst I think someone should be able to enjoy their hobby, this shouldn't be a the detriment of the residents in the area. [Read more](#)

Supporting documents

No documents

Interested party 14

Comments

I can cope with the antenna being unsightly, however I am concerned that there is a real safety issue.

When it is windy they sway around a lot. When they are 'retracted' they are still extremely tall (I can see them from my garden) and I worry that there could be a real risk to an unfortunate passer-by or neighboring properties and their inhabitants if they were to fall in bad weather. [Read more](#)

Supporting documents

No documents

Interested party 15

Comments

I write in support of the above appeal.

I am a UK-licensed amateur radio operator (callsign M7OOR), and I offer the following technical context which may assist the Inspector in understanding the nature of the proposed installation.

Amateur radio is a lawful activity regulated by Ofcom under the Wireless Telegraphy Act 2006. Effective antenna systems are fundamental to its operation, and in practice this requires antennas to be installed at a reasonable height above ground level to function as intended.

The installations described in the application — including a mast extending approximately 4.5 metres above roof level, a telescopic loop antenna extending to approximately 8.5 metres when in use, and a wire antenna supported between the dwelling and ground-mounted poles — are typical of domestic amateur radio stations. They are neither unusual nor disproportionate in scale when considered alongside other common features of the built environment, such as television aerials, satellite dishes, and nearby utility infrastructure.

I note that terms such as “monster” appear in third-party descriptions and are not part of the formal planning submission. Such language is emotive rather than technical, and should be afforded limited weight when assessing the scale and impact of the proposed structures.

A triple delta loop is a lightweight wire antenna supported on a telescopic mast; it is not a permanent or industrial structure. The ability to retract the antenna when not in use is consistent with good operating practice and demonstrates consideration of visual amenity. The appellant’s membership of RAYNET is also relevant. RAYNET is a recognised voluntary emergency communications service that supports local authorities and emergency responders during incidents where conventional systems are unavailable or degraded, including severe weather, flooding, and loss of communications infrastructure. This capability depends on trained operators maintaining functional home stations, including effective antenna systems.

The objections cited appear to be primarily aesthetic in nature. While such concerns are understandable, they are subjective and should be weighed against the modest scale, functional necessity, and lawful nature of the installation. No evidence has been presented to substantiate claims regarding property value impact.

I respectfully submit that the proposed installation is proportionate, typical of its use, and does not give rise to material planning harm. I therefore ask that the appeal be allowed. [Read more](#)

Supporting documents

No documents

Interested party 16

Comments

Let the man live his life!! The paper plans make the setup look a lot worse than it is in real life! He’s got a good purpose, not harming anyone and is licensed. [Read more](#)

Supporting documents

No documents

