

Thornton Parish Council Objection to Proposed 5G Mast on The Old Village Green

Thornton Parish Council hereby object to the proposed construction of a 70ft+ tall 5G mast on the Thornton Village Green on Green Lane. (Planning reference: DC/2020/01140) We believe that the proposed site is wholly inadequate and that alternative sites are available and should be used. Our objection is based on the following considerations:

- At 20 metres tall the mast would tower over all other structures in the area, along with its appearance being completely out of place with the surroundings. It would be an eyesore, dominating the landscape and having a huge negative impact on the visual character of the area. We have received numerous comments from residents who live in close proximity to the proposed site, all of whom are opposed to having such an imposing structure dropped right outside their front doors.
- The proposed site for the mast is a site of significant historical significance, being the remaining part of the historic Thornton Village Green, which is directly next to the old village stocks and sundial, recently refurbished by Thornton Parish Council. These are both grade II listed monuments on the site of the village green, and the addition of a huge mast on this site, on the green and in direct proximity of the monuments, would greatly disrupt and ruin the important historical vista. Along with this the site is also still being used for community events, such as Remembrance Sunday and the Christmas tree lights switch on event. From looking at the plans submitted with this application it is clear that the suggested placement is directly in front of the living Christmas tree currently on the site, which would severely hinder its intended purpose as a feature of local events for years to come. As such, due to this historic significance and continued community usage, to consider this site as simply a 'grass verge' in the application is sorely mistaken.
- The installation and maintenance of the mast would cause disruption to the roads around Thornton and inconvenience the residents who live in the area.
- As we have seen from recent news reports regarding other 5G towers, these structures have become a magnet for antisocial behaviour, arson and property damage, and the threat of similar events happening in a residential area in the very centre of Thornton mean that a more remote site would be better suited. (In social media correspondence relating to this proposal we have already seen comments to the effect of damaging or destroying the tower once it has been built.)
- We believe that there are other potential sites which are much better suited to this type of development, with the Parish Council's thinking being that a site on the Broom's Cross Road would be a potential alternative to consider. This is relatively close to the original proposed site, and we know that where necessary with 5G networks smaller pieces of kit can be installed in, for instance, lampposts to extend the range of the signals from the mast. This would be to the benefit of local residents, and would surely require at most a small additional investment, from a provider who stands to make a sizable profit from 5G technology. As such we would argue that this is a more suitable solution for all involved than putting the mast itself directly in the centre of the Thornton Village Green.

Thornton Parish Council