

Michelle Dodrill

From: Planning - Registry
Subject: FW: SD22A/0439 - Architectural Conservation Officer Comments re Rathcoole Garda Station New Telecom tower

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RE: SD22A/0439 – MAIN ST, RATHCOOLE (RATHCOOLE GARDA STATION)

Dear Aoife,
Please see comment below re above planning application.

Appraisal

This is an application for the replacement of an existing 15m (overall height 17.8m) telecommunications monopole support structure previously granted under Reg. Ref. SD13A/0104 with a proposed new 15m telecommunications lattice tower with an overall height of 17.8m, which will carry the telecommunications equipment transferred from the existing structure and the addition of new antennas, dishes and associated equipment along with new ground level equipment cabinets and fencing. The proposed development is located within the curtilage of a Protected Structure (RPS Ref. 311 – Rathcoole Garda Station).

The development proposes to replace an existing monopole support structure with a new lattice tower of the same height. The subject site is an established telecommunication site and the proposal allows for a more substantial structure capable of co-location and improving the current telecommunication infrastructure. The visual impact is already present and allowing a new lattice tower does not negate nor increase the overall visual impact. The location of the site to the rear of the Protected Structure (RPS Ref. 311) does not provide a direct visual impact when viewing the front site of the Protected Structure and principal façade. The proposed lattice tower has been shown in provided photomontages and shows that the proposed new tower will not be viewed from the adjoining Protected Structure site (RPS Ref. 310 - Church of Ireland Church) and therefore it is considered that the overall visual impact is recognised as part of the Village setting but it can only be viewed in certain locations. It is not particularly evident in that it does not cause a direct impact on the Protected Structure sites and its visual impact on the character of the ACA is moderate to neutral in that it can only be viewed from certain locations.

Based on the above it is considered that the proposed development although has a visual impact provides the need for a more substantial structure in order to provide an improved telecommunication infrastructure needs to be balanced. Given the above assessment it is considered that the proposed development is acceptable with the following conditions attached.

Recommendation

It is considered that the following conditions should be attached to any grant of permission:

- A safety statement should be submitted for approval and agreement detailing how the Protected Structure and all associated features will be safeguarded during the proposed removal of the existing telecommunications monopole and the installation of the new lattice tower and new equipment. A designated area should be provided in order to ensure a buffer is kept ensuring no construction vehicles etc go near the Protected Structure area. Details of the entrance and ingress should also be provided ensuring any impact or possible damage during construction.
- Details of the paint colour for the new equipment cabinet and fencing should be submitted for approval and agreement. The applicant should also consider and look into the possibility of painting the lattice tower in a colour that might lessen the overall visual impact within the village area and in order to determine if anything else can be done from a visual impact viewpoint given its location in the curtilage of a protected structure and Architectural Conservation Area.

I trust the above is in order.

Kind regards,
Irenie

Irenie McLoughlin
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Architectural Conservation Section
Project Delivery
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