**Applicant: Cignal Infrastructure**

**Development: 18m monopole for telecommunications Street works Solutions**

**Location**: **Public Roadway (L 21121), Ballyfin, Co. Laois**

**Recommendation**: **Grant**

**Development Description**

This is an application for a Section 254 licence for Cignal Infrastructure for a 18m monopole for telecommunications Street works Solutions at Ballyfin, Co. Laois.

The proposed structure will provide mobile and wireless broadband. The proposed pole is 18m high.

The pole will provide up to 4G immediately and will provide 5G coverage into the future. Also 1 no. cabinet is required to service the unit.

**Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended**

It is considered that the development falls under section 254 (1) (ee) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, as outlined below.

Licensing of appliances and cables, etc., on public roads.

254.—(1) Subject to *subsection (2)*, a person shall not erect, construct, place or maintain—

( *a*) a vending machine,

( *b*) a town or landscape map for indicating directions or places,

( *c*) a hoarding, fence or scaffold,

( *d*) an advertisement structure,

( *e*) a cable, wire or pipeline,

( *ee*) overground electronic communications infrastructure and any associated physical infrastructure, ]

( *f*) a telephone kiosk or pedestal, or

( *g*) any other appliance, apparatus or structure, which may be prescribed as requiring a licence under this section,

on, under, over or along a public road save in accordance with a licence granted by a planning authority under this section.

**Assessment**

The cabinet and monopole proposed are located in the Public Roadway of the L 21121 Road at Ballyfin, Co. Laois.

The site is located adjacent to the Recycling Centre in a lay-by area off the L 21121, outside the grounds of Ballyfin GAA Club.

The site is well screened by existing trees along the edge of the L 2112 and is located off the public roadway adjacent to an existing Recycling Centre. It is considered that the proposed development will fit in to the surrounding environment and will appear as any other piece of utility infrastructure in the landscape.

A protected structure, St Fintan’s Catholic Church (RPS 367) is located circa 55m east of the application site. The proposed development is circa 950 m from the Slieve Bloom Mountains SPA. It is considered that given the design of the pole, at 360mm wide, it will not impact on the protected structure and the landscape.

It is further considered that the development complies with polices in relation to telecommunications in the Laois County development plan 2017-2023.

**Natura 2000**

Having regard to the nature and scale of development and distance to the nearest designated site – Slieve Bloom Mountains SPA, it is not considered that the proposed development would not be likely to have a significant effect individually or in combination with other plans or projects on a European Site.

**Recommendation**

I recommend that a licence under section 254 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended issue for a Telecommunications slim line pole and associated cabinet. The following conditions should apply:

**Schedule 1**

Having regard to the location of the proposed telecommunications monopole and the nature of the development, it is considered that, subject to compliance with the conditions set out in the schedule below, the proposed development would be acceptable in terms of traffic safety and convenience and would therefore be in accordance with the proper planning and development of the area.

**Schedule 2**

1. The development shall be carried out in accordance with the plans and particulars received by the Planning Authority on 20th May 2021 except where conditions hereunder specify otherwise.

**Reason:** In the interests of clarity and the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

1. The precise location of the cabinet and monopole shall be agreed with the Roads Department of Laois County Council prior to the commencement of development on site.

**Reason:** To ensure the efficient operation of services.

1. The maximum height of the telecommunications street pole shall not exceed 18 metres

**Reason:** In the interest of the visual amenity of the area and proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

1. Any departures from the approved plans and particulars referred to in condition 1 and condition 2 of this licence, including any alterations to the location, layout, design and height of telecommunication street pole and associated operator cabinet, shall not be carried out without first obtaining the prior written approval of the Planning Authority.

**Reason:** To avoid any misunderstanding as to the approved plans and particulars of the licence.

**5.** No additional dishes, antennae, or other equipment other than as shown on Drawing No. LS\_XXXX-105 received by the Planning Authority on 20th May 2021, shall be attached to the telecommunications pole or otherwise erected on the site, without first obtaining the prior written approval of the Planning Authority.

**Reason:** In the interest of the visual amenity and proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

**6.** The applicant shall notify the Planning Authority of any change of ownership, transfer to a new operator or any subsequent agreements to share the telecommunications street pole and associated operator cabinet.

**Reason:** To ensure that the development shall be in accordance with licence granted and that effective control is maintained.

**7.** In the event of obsolescence, the telecommunications street pole and associated operator cabinet shall be removed from the site and the site shall re-instated at the applicant’s expense.

**Reason:** In the interest of visual amenity and the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

**8.** The road verge shall be restored by the applicant and all damage made good to the satisfaction of the Municipal District Engineer.

**Reason:** In the interest of ensuring that the verge is not adversely affected by any works relating to the installation of the telecommunications pole and associated operator cabinets.

**9.** Any road opening works on the public road or public footpath required to facilitate the development shall be subject to a Road Opening Licence in compliance with *‘Guidelines for Managing Openings in Public Roads (2007)’*.

**Reason:** In the interest of traffic safety.

**10.** The installation of the telecommunications monopole and associated operator cabinets shall not impair the operation of existing land and roadside drainage and the applicant shall not interfere with roadside drainage without the prior written agreement of the Municipal District Engineer.

**Reason:** To ensure the integrity of the public road and public footpath is not diminished by a reduced quality road drainage system.

**11. (a)**Adequate off carriageway parking facilities shall be provided for all traffic associated with the installation of the telecommunications street pole and associated operator cabinets, including delivery and service vehicles/trucks. There shall be no parking along the public road.

1. All measures shall be taken to prevent muck, dirt, debris or other materials being deposited on the adjoining public road by machinery or vehicles travelling to and from the site during the installation phase.
2. The applicant shall maintain the site in a neat and litter free condition during the installation period. No materials shall be stored or deposited on the public road and/or public footpath during the installation phase without the prior written agreement of the Municipal District Engineer.

**(d)** The applicant shall ensure that all works on site are carried out in a manner such that noise and dust emissions do not result in significant impairment of, or significant interference with amenities or the environment beyond the site boundary.

**Reason:** In the interest of traffic safety, amenity and orderly development.

**12.** Appropriate warning signage (including lighting where required) shall be erected during the installation period, for the benefit of all road users, members of public, those passing the site and those entering and exiting from the site, and to highlight the presence of construction related traffic on the public road adjoining the site.

**Reason:** In the interest of traffic safety.

**13.** This licence is for the telecommunications street pole and associated operator cabinet, and nothing in this licence shall be construed as negating the applicant’s statutory obligations or requirements under any other enactments or regulations, including the planning laws, building laws etc.

**Reason:** In the interest of public safety.

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Eoin Newman

Graduate Planner