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NYMNPA
26/01/2021

18 January 2021

Mrs Rosie Gee
North York Moors National Park Authority
The Old Vicarage
Bondgate
Helmsley
YO62 5BP

Dear Mrs Gee

Community Broadband Transmitter on High Straggleton Farm – Application for Planning Permission.

This document supports our planning application for the above transmitter. I include some brief history of our dealings with the planning office and our role as the new operators of Moorsweb, for background.

Moorsweb Background

As you may already know, Moorsweb was created in 2006 and run by Barry Sunley, along with the community committee, to bring high speed broadband solutions to outlying villages, hamlets and farms in the North Yorkshire Moors. In 2017 Barry decided to retire and handed the reigns over to Martyn and Julie Boswell of Signa Technologies.

Martyn was previously the Managing Director of LN Communications and has submitted several planning applications into the NYMNPA in the past. Martyn was also heavily involved in Moorsweb from the inception and helped design and install much of the network, so it was a natural progression that he and Julie take over the running of the community led network.

Summary of Proposal

We propose to install a small radio broadband transmitter at High Straggleton Farm (fixed wireless access), powered by mains electric to provide an ultrafast broadband service to the Farm, caravan park and surrounding villages. This transmitter will provide service to several communities and act as a major gateway.



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This will consist of an easily removable vertical structure ie 8" diameter wooden post, with an array of antennae, weatherproof enclosure, powered by mains electric.

High Straggleton Farm Project Background

Moorsweb has been contacted by several residents of local communities in the area such as East and West Barnby, Hutton Mulgrave, Goldsborough, Scaling Dam and Ugthorpe, requesting help with bringing high speed broadband to their villages.

Several residents, farms and local businesses have expressed an interest in receiving our service. There are approx 100+ residents underserved by national service providers so the potential to change the lives of these residents is huge.

The service delivered via the national internet service providers is less than 2Mbps and in fact according to BT's dsl checker, this shows services of only up to 1Mbps, which does not even meet the universal service obligation (USO) of 10Mbps set by the government. Under Phase 3 of the Superfast North Yorkshire project, most of these villages are not covered by this round of funding so may never get upgraded.

This level of service puts the community at a huge disadvantage and could affect the life of the villages itself. With more and more residents needing online services and the farming community being required to complete Defra and accounting forms online, the current network is just not providing a viable service. This could encourage residents to move away and dissuade new tenants from moving in.

Proposal

Moorsweb currently provides nearly 600 residents with high speed broadband across several dales such as Rosedale, Farndale, Danby Dale etc. This is provided by line of sight radio broadband technology connecting farms and villages via a network of repeaters to deliver the service. It is a community backed initiative with a committee (Moorsweb Link) to oversee the running of the operator and protect the members' interests.

The most viable option for the communities listed is to link the villages to the current Moorsweb network so they could gain access to the services enjoyed by current Moorsweb customers.



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The proposed site has been chosen based on:

- Minimising any impact on the visual appeal of the area
- Good line-of-sight between the proposed repeater sites and therefore good signal transmission for high data rates.
- Minimum number of repeater sites
- As far away from the roads and public footpath as possible, to minimise possible objections on scenic grounds.

Alternative Broadband Options

- As previously stated above, the current telephone line broadband offering is less than the USO with no future plans to upgrade the service.
- There are no commercial plans from other operators to provide a better service in the area.
- The only other option is satellite. This is possible but far more expensive and nowhere near as fast or reliable.

The conclusion is that there is no feasible workable alternative and the most practical and economical solution is a radio based WiFi network.

Infrastructure Details

Extent, nature and condition of the habitats affected by the proposal

The land is scrub land between two grazing fields.

Detailed Construction Methodology

Pre-construction was carried out prior to installation off-site, which reduced disturbance and installation time.



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Tools used for construction

- Hand powered power tools were used for the simple construction of the mast.
- Battery powered Drill
- Battery powered Impactor
- Battery powered Screwdriver
- Equipment required (as per the Block Plan)

The design of the mast is simple but sturdy for the environment located in.

- Wooden post (6m total)
- IP65 metal cabinet to house broadband equipment
- Armoured Cable
- 3 x Sector and 2 x Dish Antennae to receive and transmit signal

Assembly details

- Wooden post would be lowered into pre dug hole (1M) and backfilled.
- Antennae attached to the pole.
- Weatherproof Enclosure for the battery and other incidental kit on the pole near the ground approx 1000mm x 600mm.

Timeframe

- The build will take approximately 2 days to complete. The construction process is not complicated, and engineers are experienced in building these types of structures.

Details of Access Required

- Access was gained on foot from where existing farm track finished.
- Consultation and permission requested to the landowners' representative (local estate manager/tenant farmer) was arranged to gain appropriate access.
- Visits are infrequent and hopefully no more than once a year for either maintenance or repair of equipment, again arranged with appropriate parties.



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I hope this meets your requirements under the planning application and feel free to contact me should you require further information or clarification.

Yours faithfully

Martyn Boswell
Managing Director
Signa Technologies Ltd