

ITEM

Application Reference	DC/074646
Proposal and Locations	Erection of street furniture in 32 locations, including steel poles, clear nylon wire, arches and posts in association with an Eruv. Various locations on boundary of Eruv. Cromer Road, Newboulton Road, Jackson Street, Brookfield Road, Old Wool Lane, Queens Road, Radnormere Drive, Birtlespool Road, Cheadle Road, North Downs Road, Turves Road, Acacia Avenue, Bankfield Road, Highfield Road, Vernon Close, Chedlee Drive, Bruntwood Lane, Etchells Road, Wilmslow Road, St Ann's Road North, Brandon Avenue, Rose Vale, Elmsleigh Road, Pymgate Lane, Yew Tree Grove, Firs Road, South Drive, West Drive, Styal Road, Park Road, Altrincham Road, Brookside Road, and Kingsway - Gatley, Heald Green, Cheadle and Cheadle Hulme, Stockport.
Type Of Application:	Full Application
Registration Date:	05.02.2020
Target Date:	25.05.2020 (Extension of time)
Case Officer:	Helen Hodgett
Applicant:	Cheadle & Gatley Eruv Committee
Agent:	Mr Edelman, Yeshurun Hebrew Congregation, Gatley

DELEGATION/COMMITTEE STATUS

This application is before Cheadle Area Committee and before Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South Area Committee for comments.

This is as the Local Planning Authority have received more than 4 representations of support and more than 4 representations of objection to the application, and as the application straddles the area boundaries of Cheadle Area and Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South Area.

Comments made during Cheadle Area Committee and Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South Area Committee will be presented in the subsequent report to Planning and Highways Regulation Committee, to inform their consideration/determination of the application.

DESCRIPTION OF DEVELOPMENT

Planning Permission is sought for the installation of street furniture in 32 locations.

The street furniture is proposed in association with an 'Eruv', which is a notional area, as defined in Jewish law, encompassing an area throughout which the carrying of objects and movement of non-ambulant persons can be carried out on the Sabbath (from sunset on Friday until nightfall on Saturday).

A natural Eruv consisting of existing streets and street furniture already exists within the area, however, there are gaps at certain points, which have resulted in this application for additional street furniture. It is the street furniture that forms the subject of this application.

The application as originally submitted included 35 installations. The application now includes 32 installations, as follow below. Installations TPK8, TP34 and TP35 are omitted from the application. Please note that the number reference for each of the installations remains as originally submitted for continuity and ease of reference.

Notice has been served on Stockport MBC and Stockport Homes (TP17 & TPK21) as the landowners of the proposed installation sites.

As is shown in detail in the accompanying plans, diagrams and documents for this application, the proposed 32 installations comprise:

- 22 pairs of galvanised steel 6 or 5 metre high, 89 millimetre (mm) diameter poles, with a clear nylon fishing wire strung taut between each pair of poles. To ensure the tension of the wire, the wire would sit within a 6mm high V bar welded on top of each pole, and fix perpendicular to two eyebolts welded to the poles at a height of approximately 4 metres above ground level. The poles would be set into the ground with a below ground concreted base of 900mm depth by 300mm in diameter. The poles would be 6 metres in height above ground level and would be set 200mm away from boundaries. (Installation references: TP02-TP07, TP09, TP11, TP13-TP17, TP20, TP23, TP25-TP28, TP30-TP32).
- 8 galvanised steel archways, 2.4 metres in height of varying widths, with 75mm diameter posts and wrought iron scrollwork atop, powder coated black. To have concrete bases. The installations would be set 100mm away from boundaries. (Ref.s TPK01, TPK10, TPK12, TPK18, TPK21, TPK22, TPK24, and TPK29).
- The attachment of a clear nylon fishing wire between 2 sets of existing SMBC lampposts (ref. s TP19 and TP33). The wire to be attached with a light post head attachment detail to be agreed, with perpendicular eyebolts to ensure tension.

All of the 24 clear nylon fishing wires would additionally include 12.5 millimetre (mm) diameter white float buoys at 1 metre intervals, threaded along the length, in the interests of ecology.

SITES AND SURROUNDINGS

The location and details for the 32 installations can be best understood by looking at the accompanying plans and documents for this application. The installations are located within predominantly residential areas, as regards the development plan, as follow.

TPK01: Cromer Road – archway over footpath between rear of 38 Cromer Road and railway line, Cheadle Hulme North ward.

TP02: Wire across Stockport Road affixed between two 6m high 89mm diameter posts located on Newbould Road & Jackson Street, Cheadle and Gatley and Cheadle Hulme North ward.

TP03: Wire across Brookfield Road affixed between two 6m high 89mm diameter posts located adjacent to entrance to Jewish Cemetery and substation to side of 144 Brookfield Road, Cheadle and Gatley ward.

TP04: Wire across Old Wool Lane affixed between two 5m high 89mm diameter posts adjacent to rear of 7 Wentworth Drive and 2 The Demmings, Cheadle Hulme North and Cheadle and Gatley ward. Directly adjacent to designated Green Chain designation in development plan.

TP05: Wire across junction of Queens Road with Radnormere Drive affixed between two 6m high 89mm diameter posts, Cheadle Hulme North ward.

TP06: Wire across Birtlespool Road affixed between two 6m high 89mm diameter posts adjacent to 2 Birtlespool Road and rear of 102 Queens Road, Cheadle Hulme North ward.

TP07: Wire across Radnomere Drive affixed between two 6m high 89mm diameter posts adjacent to 5 and 8 Radnomere Drive, Cheadle Hulme North ward.

TPK08: Queens Road – Omitted from the application. Land ownership unclear.

TP09: Wire across Cheadle Road at junction with Orrishmere Road affixed between two 6m high 89mm diameter posts, Cheadle Hulme North ward.

TPK10: North Downs Road - archway over footpath between rear of 2a East Downs Road and playing field of Laurus School, Cheadle Hulme North ward.

TP11: Wire across junction of Turves Road and Acacia Avenue affixed between two 6m high 89mm diameter posts, Cheadle Hulme North and Cheadle Hulme South ward.

TPK12: Turves Road - archway over footpath between 43 and 45 Turves Road, where the footpath joins the pavement of Turves Road, Cheadle Hulme South ward.

TP13: Wire across Bankfield Road affixed between two 6m high 89mm diameter posts adjacent to 6 Bankfield Road and the electricity substation, Cheadle Hulme South ward.

TP14: Wire across Highfield Road at junction with Turves Road affixed between two 6m high 89mm diameter posts, Cheadle Hulme South ward.

TP15: Wire across Vernon Close affixed between two 6m high 89mm diameter posts adjacent to Bradshaw Hall Primary School and 18 Vernon Close, Cheadle Hulme South ward.

TP16: Wire across Chedlee Drive at the junction with Turves Road affixed between two 6m high 89mm diameter posts, Cheadle Hulme South ward.

TP17: Wire across Bruntwood Lane affixed between two 5m high 89mm diameter posts adjacent to Emmanuel Church and 7 Hall Meadow, Cheadle Hulme South ward. 40m from designated Green Chain.

TPK18: Etchells Road - archway over footpath between 26 and 28 Etchells Road, Heald Green ward.

TP19: Wilmslow Road - attachment of a clear nylon fishing wire between 2 sets of existing SMBC lampposts located adjacent to 119 Wilmslow Road and The Courtyard, Heald Green ward. Located outside of, but within the vicinity of Cheadle Royal Hospital Conservation Area and Registered Historic Parks and Gardens, within which are sited grade II listed buildings, including the Nurses Home and Cheadle Royal Hospital. Located adjacent to designated Green Chain.

TP20: Wire across St Ann's Road North affixed between two 6m high 89mm diameter posts adjacent to 39 St. Ann's Road North and the St. Ann's Road North pavement adjacent to the footpath to Gleneagles Road, Heald Green ward. Located outside of, but within the vicinity of Cheadle Royal Hospital Conservation Area and Registered Historic Parks and Gardens, within which are sited grade II listed buildings, including the Nurses Home and Cheadle Royal Hospital. The areas adjacent to the footways where the poles would be located are covered by area Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs).

TPK21: Brandon Avenue - Entrance to Rose Vale Park - archway over footpath between 23 and 23 a and b Brandon Avenue, Heald Green ward.

TPK22: Rose Vale – Entrance to Rose Vale Park - archway over footpath to rear of 35 Motcombe Farm Road, Heald Green ward.

TP23: Wire across Elmsleigh Road affixed between two 6m high 89mm diameter posts adjacent to 50 and 52 Motcombe Road, Heald Green ward.

TPK24: Pymgate Lane - archway over footpath to side of 2 Motcombe Road, Heald Green ward.

TP25: Wire across Yew Tree Grove affixed between two 5m high 89mm diameter posts adjacent to 1 Yew Tree Grove and the electricity substation, Cheadle and Gatley ward.

TP26: Wire across Firs Road affixed between two 6m high 89mm diameter posts adjacent to 6 Firs Road and the side of 2 Firs Grove, Cheadle and Gatley ward. The mature tree within the footway adjacent to the proposed pole adjacent to 6 Firs Road is a TPO tree.

TP27: Wire across South Drive affixed between two 6m high 89mm diameter posts adjacent to 1 South Drive and property known as 7a South Drive (shown as 8 South Drive upon the submitted plan), Cheadle and Gatley ward.

TP28: Wire across junction of West Drive and Styal Road affixed between two 6m high 89mm diameter posts, Cheadle and Gatley ward.

TPK29: Styal Road - archway over footpath leading to Halstead Grove between 14 and 16 Styal Road, Cheadle and Gatley ward. Located opposite the Gatley Village Conservation Area. Adjacent to designated Green Chain.

TP30: Wire across Park Road affixed between two 6m high 89mm diameter posts on Windsor Avenue and Malvern Avenue, Cheadle and Gatley ward.

TP31: Wire across Altrincham Road affixed between two 6m high 89mm diameter posts on Clifton Drive and Altrincham Road, Cheadle and Gatley ward.

TP32: Wire across Brookside Road affixed between two 5m high 89mm diameter posts adjacent to Brookside horticultural nursery and 26 Brookside Road, Cheadle and Gatley ward.

Approx. 10m from Gately Carrs Site of Biological Importance (SBI) and Local Nature Reserve (LNR). Adjacent to Landscape Character Area.

TP33: Kingsway A34 – attachment of a clear nylon fishing wire between 2 sets of existing SMBC lampposts, one located adjacent to the steps of the footpath, adjacent to the slip road to the M60, south of the railway cutting and flyover, and one on the opposite side of the carriageway, Cheadle and Gatley ward.

TP34: Airedale Close – Omitted from the application

TP35/36: Crescent Road – Omitted from the application

POLICY BACKGROUND

Section 38(6) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires applications/appeals to be determined in accordance with the Statutory Development Plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

The Statutory Development Plan includes:-

Policies set out in the Stockport Unitary Development Plan Review (SUDP) adopted 31st May 2006 which have been saved by direction under paragraph 1(3) of Schedule 8 to the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004; &

Policies set out in the Stockport Local Development Framework Core Strategy Development Plan Document (CS) adopted 17th March 2011.

N.B. Due weight should be given to relevant SUDP and CS policies according to their degree of consistency with the National Planning Policy Framework ('NPPF') (the closer the policies in the plan to the policies in the NPPF, the greater the weight that may be given); and how the policies are expected to be applied is outlined within the Planning Practice Guidance ('PPG') launched on 6th March 2014.

Saved policies of the SUDP Review

NE1.1 – Sites of Special Nature Conservation Importance

NE1.2 – Sites of Nature Conservation Importance
NE3.1 – Protection and Enhancement of Green Chains
EP1.9 – Safeguarding of Aerodromes and Air Navigation Facilities
L1.7 – Recreation Routes: Maintenance and Expansion of Network
L1.8 – Strategic Recreation Routes
L1.11 – Development Related to Recreation Routes

LDF Core Strategy/Development Management policies

Core Policy CS1: OVERARCHING PRINCIPLES: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
– ADDRESSING INEQUALITIES AND CLIMATE CHANGE

SD-1: Creating Sustainable Communities

CS8: SAFEGUARDING AND IMPROVING THE ENVIRONMENT

SIE-1: Quality Places

SIE-3: Protecting, Safeguarding and Enhancing the Environment

SIE-5: Aviation Facilities, Telecommunications and other Broadcast Infrastructure

CS9: TRANSPORT AND DEVELOPMENT

CS10: AN EFFECTIVE AND SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT NETWORK

T-1: Transport and Development

T-3: Safety and Capacity on the Highway Network

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

A Revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) issued by the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) on 19th February 2019 (updated 19th June 2019) replaced the previous NPPF (originally issued 2012 & revised 2018). The NPPF has not altered the fundamental legal requirement under Section 38(6) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 that decisions must be made in accordance with the Development Plan unless material considerations (such as the NPPF) indicate otherwise.

The NPPF representing the governments up-to-date planning policy which should be taken into account in dealing with applications focuses on achieving a lasting housing reform, facilitating the delivery of a greater number of homes, ensuring that we get planning for the right homes built in the right places of the right quality at the same time as protecting our environment. If decision takers choose not to follow the NPPF, then clear and convincing reasons for doing so are needed.

N.B. In respect of decision-taking the revised NPPF constitutes a “material consideration”.

Extracts from the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) – link to full document - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2>

1. Introduction

Para 1. The National Planning Policy Framework sets out the Government’s planning policies for England and how these should be applied. It provides a framework within which locally-prepared plans for housing and other development can be produced.

Para 2. Planning law requires that applications for planning permission be determined in accordance with the development plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise. The National Planning Policy Framework must be taken into

account in preparing the development plan, and is a material consideration in planning decisions. Planning policies and decisions must also reflect relevant international obligations and statutory requirements.

2. Achieving sustainable development

Para 7. The purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. At a very high level, the objective of sustainable development can be summarised as meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Para 8. Achieving sustainable development means that the planning system has three overarching objectives, which are interdependent and need to be pursued in mutually supportive ways (so that opportunities can be taken to secure net gains across each of the different objectives):

a) an economic objective – to help build a strong, responsive and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land of the right types is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth, innovation and improved productivity; and by identifying and coordinating the provision of infrastructure;

b) a social objective – to support strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by ensuring that a sufficient number and range of homes can be provided to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by fostering a well-designed and safe built environment, with accessible services and open spaces that reflect current and future needs and support communities' health, social and cultural well-being; and

c) an environmental objective – to contribute to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment; including making effective use of land, helping to improve biodiversity, using natural resources prudently, minimising waste and pollution, and mitigating and adapting to climate change, including moving to a low carbon economy.

Para 10. So that sustainable development is pursued in a positive way, at the heart of the Framework is a presumption in favour of sustainable development (paragraph 11).

The presumption in favour of sustainable development

Para 11. Plans and decisions should apply a presumption in favour of sustainable development.

For decision-taking this means:

c) approving development proposals that accord with an up-to-date development plan without delay; or

d) where there are no relevant development plan policies, or the policies which are most important for determining the application are out-of-date, granting permission unless:

i. the application of policies in this Framework that protect areas or assets of particular importance provides a clear reason for refusing the development proposed; or

ii. any adverse impacts of doing so would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits, when assessed against the policies in this Framework taken as a whole.

Para 12. The presumption in favour of sustainable development does not change the statutory status of the development plan as the starting point for decision making. Where a planning application conflicts with an up-to-date development plan (including any neighbourhood plans that form part of the development plan), permission should not usually be granted. Local planning authorities may take decisions that depart from an up-to-date development plan, but only if material considerations in a particular case indicate that the plan should not be followed.

4. Decision-making

Para 38. Local planning authorities should approach decisions on proposed development in a positive and creative way. They should use the full range of planning tools available, including brownfield registers and permission in principle, and work proactively with applicants to secure developments that will improve the economic, social and environmental conditions of the area. Decision-makers at every level should seek to approve applications for sustainable development where possible.

Para 47. Planning law requires that applications for planning permission be determined in accordance with the development plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

Para 54. Local planning authorities should consider whether otherwise unacceptable development could be made acceptable through the use of conditions or planning obligations. Planning obligations should only be used where it is not possible to address unacceptable impacts through a planning condition.

Para 55. Planning conditions should be kept to a minimum and only imposed where they are necessary, relevant to planning and to the development to be permitted, enforceable, precise and reasonable in all other respects. Agreeing conditions early is beneficial to all parties involved in the process and can speed up decision making. Conditions that are required to be discharged before development commences should be avoided, unless there is a clear justification.

Para 56. Planning obligations must only be sought where they meet all of the following tests:

- a) necessary to make the development acceptable in planning terms;
- b) directly related to the development; and
- c) fairly and reasonably related in scale and kind to the development.

8. Promoting healthy and safe communities

Para 91. Planning policies and decisions should aim to achieve healthy, inclusive and safe places which:

- a) promote social interaction, including opportunities for meetings between people who might not otherwise come into contact with each other – for example through mixed-use developments, strong neighbourhood centres, street layouts

that allow for easy pedestrian and cycle connections within and between neighbourhoods, and active street frontages;

b) are safe and accessible, so that crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine the quality of life or community cohesion – for example through the use of clear and legible pedestrian routes, and high quality public space, which encourage the active and continual use of public areas; and

c) enable and support healthy lifestyles, especially where this would address identified local health and well-being needs – for example through the provision of safe and accessible green infrastructure, sports facilities, local shops, access to healthier food, allotments and layouts that encourage walking and cycling.

Para 92. To provide the social, recreational and cultural facilities and services the community needs, planning policies and decisions should:

a) plan positively for the provision and use of shared spaces, community facilities (such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, open space, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship) and other local services to enhance the sustainability of communities and residential environments;

b) take into account and support the delivery of local strategies to improve health, social and cultural well-being for all sections of the community;

c) guard against the unnecessary loss of valued facilities and services, particularly where this would reduce the community's ability to meet its day-to-day needs;

d) ensure that established shops, facilities and services are able to develop and modernise, and are retained for the benefit of the community; and

e) ensure an integrated approach to considering the location of housing, economic uses and community facilities and services.

9. Promoting sustainable transport

Para 108. In assessing sites that may be allocated for development in plans, or specific applications for development, it should be ensured that:

a) appropriate opportunities to promote sustainable transport modes can be – or have been – taken up, given the type of development and its location;

b) safe and suitable access to the site can be achieved for all users; and

c) any significant impacts from the development on the transport network (in terms of capacity and congestion), or on highway safety, can be cost effectively mitigated to an acceptable degree.

Para 109. Development should only be prevented or refused on highways grounds if there would be an unacceptable impact on highway safety, or the residual cumulative impacts on the road network would be severe.

Para 110. Within this context, applications for development should:

- a) give priority first to pedestrian and cycle movements, both within the scheme and with neighbouring areas; and second – so far as possible – to facilitating access to high quality public transport, with layouts that maximise the catchment area for bus or other public transport services, and appropriate facilities that encourage public transport use;
- b) address the needs of people with disabilities and reduced mobility in relation to all modes of transport;
- c) create places that are safe, secure and attractive – which minimise the scope for conflicts between pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles, avoid unnecessary street clutter, and respond to local character and design standards;
- d) allow for the efficient delivery of goods, and access by service and emergency vehicles; and
- e) be designed to enable charging of plug-in and other ultra-low emission vehicles in safe, accessible and convenient locations.

12. Achieving well-designed places

Para 124. The creation of high quality buildings and places is fundamental to what the planning and development process should achieve. Good design is a key aspect of sustainable development, creates better places in which to live and work and helps make development acceptable to communities. Being clear about design expectations, and how these will be tested, is essential for achieving this. So too is effective engagement between applicants, communities, local planning authorities and other interests throughout the process.

Para 127. Planning policies and decisions should ensure that developments:

- a) will function well and add to the overall quality of the area, not just for the short term but over the lifetime of the development;
- b) are visually attractive as a result of good architecture, layout and appropriate and effective landscaping;
- c) are sympathetic to local character and history, including the surrounding built environment and landscape setting, while not preventing or discouraging appropriate innovation or change (such as increased densities);
- d) establish or maintain a strong sense of place, using the arrangement of streets, spaces, building types and materials to create attractive, welcoming and distinctive places to live, work and visit;
- e) optimise the potential of the site to accommodate and sustain an appropriate amount and mix of development (including green and other public space) and support local facilities and transport networks; and

f) create places that are safe, inclusive and accessible and which promote health and well-being, with a high standard of amenity for existing and future users; and where crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine the quality of life or community cohesion and resilience.

15. Conserving and enhancing the natural environment

170. Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:

a) protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity or geological value and soils (in a manner commensurate with their statutory status or identified quality in the development plan);

b) recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services – including the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land, and of trees and woodland;

c) maintaining the character of the undeveloped coast, while improving public access to it where appropriate;

d) minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures;

e) preventing new and existing development from contributing to, being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by, unacceptable levels of soil, air, water or noise pollution or land instability. Development should, wherever possible, help to improve local environmental conditions such as air and water quality, taking into account relevant information such as river basin management plans; and

f) remediating and mitigating despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated and unstable land, where appropriate.

175. When determining planning applications, local planning authorities should apply the following principles:

a) if significant harm to biodiversity resulting from a development cannot be avoided (through locating on an alternative site with less harmful impacts), adequately mitigated, or, as a last resort, compensated for, then planning permission should be refused;

b) development on land within or outside a Site of Special Scientific Interest, and which is likely to have an adverse effect on it (either individually or in combination with other developments), should not normally be permitted. The only exception is where the benefits of the development in the location proposed clearly outweigh both its likely impact on the features of the site that make it of special scientific interest, and any broader impacts on the national network of Sites of Special Scientific Interest;

c) development resulting in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats (such as ancient woodland and ancient or veteran trees) should be refused, unless there are wholly exceptional reasons⁵⁸ and a suitable compensation strategy exists; and

d) development whose primary objective is to conserve or enhance biodiversity should be supported; while opportunities to incorporate biodiversity improvements in and around developments should be encouraged, especially where this can secure measurable net gains for biodiversity.

180. Planning policies and decisions should also ensure that new development is appropriate for its location taking into account the likely effects (including cumulative effects) of pollution on health, living conditions and the natural environment, as well as the potential sensitivity of the site or the wider area to impacts that could arise from the development. In doing so they should:

a) mitigate and reduce to a minimum potential adverse impacts resulting from noise from new development – and avoid noise giving rise to significant adverse impacts on health and the quality of life;

b) identify and protect tranquil areas which have remained relatively undisturbed by noise and are prized for their recreational and amenity value for this reason; and

c) limit the impact of light pollution from artificial light on local amenity, intrinsically dark landscapes and nature conservation.

Para 213. existing policies should not be considered out-of-date simply because they were adopted or made prior to the publication of this Framework. Due weight should be given to them, according to their degree of consistency with this Framework (the closer the policies in the plan to the policies in the Framework, the greater the weight that may be given).

NEIGHBOURING PROPERTIES

The occupiers of neighbouring properties have been notified of this planning application by letter.

A site notice to publicise the application has been displayed adjacent to each of the installation sites for public consultation (sites 1-25 - site notices posted 19/2/20; sites 26-32 - site notices posted 20/2/20; and site 33 – site notice posted 21/2/20).

A Press Notice to publicise the application was published in the Stockport Express on 19/2/20.

Representations have been received from 101 households in response to the application.

Representations received from 38 households object to the application. The issues raised in the individual representations received in response to the application can be summarised and reported as follows:

Object to the erection of overtly religious symbols/hardware on the public highway. A natural Eruv already exists in this area and is in use by the local Jewish community.

The Eruv would be contrary to the Talmudic guideline, as it will not be integral, as unobtrusive and unnoticeable as possible. Eruvs elsewhere include existing street furniture, roads and railway lines.

The Eruv will be visually intrusive. Unnecessary street furniture and clutter, which is detrimental to the character and appearance of the street scene, contrary to UDP policy. Some of the installations are next to existing street furniture, which should be utilised instead.

The Eruv will be visible from my property as a reminder of religious practices. A breach of my Human Rights.

An Eruv is divisive and as such may promote anti-semitism, and damage community and societal cohesion.

My property may be a target for anti-semitism.

Could cause serious disturbance to social harmony.

The proposed Eruv in Hale was not proceeded with in the interests of the community.

94.9% of the population locally are not Jewish. Query the inclusion of streets without Jewish residents.

The route chosen for the Eruv includes anomalies, creating dead ends and not a continuous route, and including installations on roads that do not need an installation, unlike other Eruvs.

The proposed Eruv is not fit for purpose to enable the movement of non-ambulant people, as the route is not continuous, and should be refused. It is symbolic in purpose.

The installations are not commensurately dispersed, with some areas having an installation on every street.

The whole Borough should be informed of what is proposed here.

The proposal does not bring substantial public benefit to a significant part of the Borough's population.

The Eruv pole will block access to maintain, remove and replace the fence around my property boundary.

The planting of trees rather than the installation of poles would be better for the environment and visually.

Query as to who will own and maintain the installations? It should not be at the public's expense.

Nylon thread would inevitably impact detrimentally upon wildlife, ie birds.

The proposal sets a precedent for other religions.

The poles will need to be sited away from services already in the ground.

Representations received from 62 households support the application. The issues raised in the individual representations received in response to the application can be summarised and reported as follows:

The Eruv would be beneficial to people's lives, allowing people to carry items on the Sabbath, such as medication and spare clothing, and would allow the pushing of elderly or infirm people in wheel chairs and children in buggies/prams, to allow

people and families to continue to attend synagogue on the Sabbath if unable to walk, to visit friends and family, promoting community cohesion and inclusion. A number of people have provided testament to the benefits that they would personally experience from the Eruv, including being able to once again join in with community, religious and family activities on the Sabbath.

Those who are Sabbath observant would be able to attend religious and community social events without infringing their religious beliefs.

Having seen an Eruv in other parts of the country, an Eruv does blend in, as it is difficult to see the poles and wires.

The existing boundaries can be utilised and the additional street furniture required is limited and unobtrusive. There are no costs to the council or public in the maintenance.

There are many examples across the country and none of them has resulted in an increase or decrease in any particular population group. Local Eruv installations include those in Manchester and Bury.

The proposal is not divisive. Eruvs are established in many communities including in England, without detrimental impact on the area in terms of social cohesion or community relations. The installations in other areas are unnoticed by the majority of the population.

The Eruv does not present any additional danger to wildlife / birds in the area. The number of wires is minimal and adds a small amount to the large number of existing electricity, telephone and other aerial cables already installed in the area.

CONSULTEE RESPONSES

SMBC Highways – The proposal for the creation of an Eruv within the Borough involves the installation of new poles within footways spaces, the use of street lighting columns and the installation of gateway features. Where necessary nylon will be attached to and stretched between poles and street lighting columns to create the boundary and noting the height clearance at a minimum of 5m from ground level this does not give rise to concern.

Each individual site has been reviewed with comment as follows:

TPK01, gateway feature. The design will not unacceptably inhibit the free and safe operation of the footpath, which is adopted highway. No concerns raised.

TP02, the installation of a 6m galvanised steel pole to rear of footway on either side of the highway. No concerns raised.

TP03, the installation of a 6m galvanised steel pole to rear of footway on either side of the highway. No concerns raised.

TP04, the installation of a 5m galvanised steel pole on either side of the bridleway. No concerns raised.

TP05, the installation of a 6m galvanised steel pole to rear of footway on either side of the highway. No concerns raised.

TP06, the installation of a 6m galvanised steel pole to rear of footway on either side of the highway. No concerns raised.

TP07, the installation of a 6m galvanised steel pole to rear of footway on either side of the highway. No concerns raised.

TP09, the installation of a 6m galvanised steel pole to rear of footway on either side of the highway. No concerns raised.

TP10, gateway feature. The design will not unacceptably inhibit the free and safe operation of the footpath, which is adopted highway. No concerns raised.

TP11, the installation of 6m galvanised steel poles to the rear of footways. No concerns raised.

TP12, gateway feature. The design does not impact on the overall effective width of the footpath and I see no reason to express concern.

TP13, the installation of a 6m galvanised steel pole to rear of footway on either side of the highway. No concerns raised.

TP14, the installation of a 6m galvanised steel pole to rear of footway on either side of the highway. No concerns raised.

TP15, the installation of a 6m galvanised steel pole to rear of footway on either side of the highway including reattachment of a Traffic Order sign. No concerns raised.

TP16, the installation of a 6m galvanised steel pole to rear of footway on either side of the highway. No concerns raised.

TP17, the installation of two 5m galvanised steel poles on Stockport Homes land. No concerns raised.

TP18, gateway feature across adopted highway. No concerns raised.

TP19, attachment to existing lighting columns on either side of the highway. No concerns raised.

TP20, the installation of a 6m galvanised steel pole to rear of footway on either side of the highway. No concerns raised.

TPK21, gateway feature on Stockport Homes land. No concerns raised.

TPK22, gateway feature. The design does not impact on the overall effective width of the footpath and I see no reason to express concern.

TP23, the installation of a 6m galvanised steel pole to rear of footway on either side of the highway. No concerns raised.

TPK24, gateway feature across public right of way. No concerns raised.

TP25, the installation of a 5m galvanised steel pole to rear of footway on either side of the highway. No concerns raised.

TP26, the installation of a 6m galvanised steel pole to rear of footway on either side of the highway. No concerns raised.

TP27, the installation of a 6m galvanised steel pole to rear of footway on either side of the highway. No concerns raised.

TP28, the installation of a 6m galvanised steel pole to rear of footway on either side of the highway. No concerns raised.

TP29, gateway feature across adopted footpath. No concerns raised.

TP30, the installation of a 6m galvanised steel pole to rear of footway on either side of the highway. No concerns raised.

TP31, the installation of a 6m galvanised steel pole to rear of footway on either side of the highway. No concerns raised.

TP32, the installation of a 5m galvanised steel pole on either side of the highway. No concerns raised.

TP33, attachment to existing lighting columns on either side of the highway. No concerns raised.

In conclusion, the installation of new poles and gateways and the use of existing street lighting columns plus the provision of nylon connection will not cause safety concerns for users of the highway or any traffic related concerns. I note that in some locations foam circular buoys will be attached to the wire, these features when in place would not give rise to any highway safety implications and any necessary replacement or maintenance can be undertaken in accordance with the management and maintenance plan to be agreed. I note that the Eruv features will be inspected twice weekly to ensure it is intact and twice yearly for any necessary repairs or strengthening to poles and gateway features. In the unlikely event that the nylon cabling breaks this would be replaced and due process will require authorisation from the Highway Authority (under legislation separate from Planning) to undertake works within the highway.

I therefore raise no objections, a condition being required on any approval granted to ensure an installation, management and maintenance plan is agreed prior to implementation of any part of the Eruv.

Condition:

No part of the development hereby approved shall be implemented until a strategy for the installation, maintenance and management of the Eruv associated infrastructure has been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority.

The strategy shall include:

- Procedures and process for liaison with the highway authority with respect to the undertaking of installation works within the adopted highway.
 - Full engineering details of all furniture to be installed within the highway including depth of installation of poles and gateway features.
 - Details of how and by whom work would be undertaken within the highway.
 - Procedures and process for liaison with the Council's Street Lighting department for approval of works that affect lighting columns.
 - Details of how and by whom work would be undertaken that involves nylon cable attachment to street lighting columns.
 - Details of how and by whom poles will be installed within the adopted highway.
 - Procedures and process for liaison with the Council's Public Right of Way Office with respect to installation of features that affect the Right of Way network.
 - Details of an inspection regime including ensuring retention of the furniture, nylon wire and foam buoys and procedures for reactive measures in the event of damage to or removal of any features.
 - Details of any notification process from the public in the event that damage to furniture or nylon wire occurs.
 - Details of any necessary traffic management that will be provided when installation, repair and maintenance work is undertaken.
 - Details on how permission for the installation of features on third party land will be secured.
 - Details on the regime for routine maintenance.
 - Details on indemnity and public liability that will be in place.
- Installation and maintenance work shall be undertaken fully in accordance with the approved strategy.

Reason: To ensure the installation and maintenance work is undertaken in a safe manner and do not adversely affect highway operation and safety or prejudice the amenities of the occupiers of the adjoining residential properties, in accordance with Policies Development Management T-3 Safety and Capacity on the Highway Network, SIE-1 Quality Places and SIE-3 Protecting, Safeguarding and enhancing the Environment. The details are required prior to the commencement of any part of the development to ensure that installation specification is approved, that formal process and procedure is followed and that future management and maintenance will be provided.

Informative:

The applicant's attention is drawn to the need to apply for and obtain the permission of the Highway Authority to erect poles and gateways within the public highway and attachments to street lighting columns. For further advice the applicant should contact Network Management (0161 474 4843) and Network Asset Maintenance (0161 474 2412).

SMBC Nature Development

The proposed application site areas do not have any nature conservation designations but some of the locations are located adjacent to designated areas. This detail is outlined in the table below but in particular includes:

- TP04 –adjacent to Green Chain
- TP19 – adjacent to Green Chain
- TP32 – adjacent to Gatley Carrs Site of Biological Importance (SBI) and Local Nature Reserve (LNR)

The proposals have the potential to adversely impact wildlife that these designated areas support and furthermore the functionality of the designated sites as wildlife corridors has the potential to be impacted. The scheme has been revised however to include measures to reduce the risk of these potential impacts (outlined below).

Legally Protected Species

All species of bats, and their roosts, are protected under Section 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. The latter implements the Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora. Bats are included in Schedule 2 of the Regulations as ‘European Protected Species of animals’ (EPS).

Under the Regulations it is an offence to:

- 1) Deliberately capture or kill a wild EPS
- 2) Deliberately disturb a wild EPS in such a way that significantly affects:
 - a) the ability of a significant group to survive, breed, rear or nurture young.
 - b) the local distribution of that species.
- 3) Damage or destroy a breeding place or resting site of such an animal.

Breeding birds and their nests are legally protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

In many of the sites, proposals involve provision of posts either side of an opening (such as a street) and attaching very fine gauge translucent wire (fishing line) high between the posts to form a barrier. Fishing line is proposed to minimise the visual impact of the Eruv, however the wire would likely not be visible to birds and would also be too fine for bats to detect through echolocation and therefore there is a risk of wildlife colliding with the fishing line and also becoming entangled if it breaks. Harp traps for example are used to catch bats for monitoring purposes and these use fishing line as typically this is too thin for bats to detect through echolocation. This is of particular concern where the proposed fishing line is placed near/within areas of suitable bat and bird habitat (see table below). To reduce the risk of potential adverse impacts on wildlife the scheme has been revised to include the provision of white floats (balls) of 12.5mm diameter to be spaced along the wire (min. 1m intervals). This will increase visibility of the wire to wildlife thereby reducing the risk of potential collision.

Location	Comments
TP01: Cromer Road	Arched metal gateway proposed - no significant ecological issues anticipated
TP02: Stockport Road between	Soprano pipistrelle record nearby. Approx. 80m from suitable bat foraging habitat. Potential collision risk for bats/birds if

Newbould Road & Jacksons Road	fishing line alone used.
TP03: Brookfield Road	Adjacent to good bat foraging habitat and suitable bird nesting habitat. Potential collision risk for bats/birds if fishing line alone used.
TP04: Old Wool Lane	Directly adjacent to designated Green Chain and suitable bat and bird habitat. Potential collision risk for bats/birds if fishing line alone used.
TP05: Queens Road and Radnormere Drive	Approx. 90m from suitable bat foraging habitat. Potential collision risk for bats/birds if fishing line alone used.
TP06: Birtlespool Road	Surrounding gardens likely to offer suitable bat and bird habitat. Potential collision risk for bats/birds if fishing line alone used.
TP07: Radnomere Drive	Surrounding gardens likely to offer suitable bat and bird habitat. Potential collision risk for bats/birds if fishing line alone used.
TP08: Queens Road	Omitted
TP09: Cheadle Road	Record for common pipistrelle bat activity nearby. Surrounding gardens likely to offer suitable bat and bird habitat. Potential collision risk for bats/birds if fishing line alone used.
TP10: North Downs Road	Arched metal gateway proposed - no significant ecological issues anticipated
TP11: Turves Road/ Acacia Avenue	Record for common pipistrelle bat activity nearby. Surrounding gardens likely to offer suitable bat and bird habitat. Potential collision risk for bats/birds if fishing line alone used.
TP12: Turves Road	Arched metal gateway proposed – no significant ecological issues anticipated
TP13: Bankfield Road	Surrounding gardens likely to offer suitable bat and bird habitat. Potential collision risk for bats/birds if fishing line alone used.
TP14: Highfield Road	Surrounding gardens likely to offer suitable bat and bird habitat. Potential collision risk for bats/birds if fishing line alone used.
TP15: Vernon Close	Surrounding gardens likely to offer suitable bat and bird habitat. Potential collision risk for bats/birds if fishing line alone used.
TP16: Chedlee Drive	Adjacent to suitable bat/bird habitat. Potential collision risk for bats/birds if fishing line alone used.
TP17: Bruntwood Lane	Located amid suitable bat and bird habitat and approx. 40m from designated Green Chain. Potential collision risk for bats/birds if fishing line alone used.
TP18: Etchells Road	Arched metal gateway proposed – no significant ecological issues anticipated
TP19: Wilmslow Road	Located adjacent to suitable bat and bird habitat and designated Green Chain. Potential collision risk for bats/birds if fishing line alone used.
TP20: St Ann's Road North	Adjacent to suitable bat/bird habitat. Potential collision risk for bats/birds if fishing line alone used. Adjacent trees are designated TPO
TP21: Brandon Avenue - Entrance to Rose Vale Park	Approx. 35m from designated Green Chain. Arched metal gateway proposed - no significant ecological issues anticipated
TP22: Rose Vale – entrance to Rose Vale Park	Approx. 35m from designated Green Chain. Arched metal gateway proposed - no significant ecological issues anticipated
TP23: Elmsleigh Road	Approx. 60m from designated Green Chain and located next to suitable bat and bird habitat. Potential collision risk for bats/birds if fishing line alone used.
TP24: Pymgate Lane	Arched metal gateway proposed - no significant ecological issues anticipated
TP25:	Approx. 100m from designated Green Chain and amid suitable

Yew Tree Grove	bat and bird habitat. Potential collision risk for bats/birds if fishing line alone used.
TP26: Firs Road	Records for common pipistrelle bats nearby and located amid suitable bat and bird habitat. Approx. 60m from designated Green Chain. Potential collision risk for bats/birds if fishing line alone used.
TP27: South Drive	Approx. 100m from designated Green Chain and amid suitable bat and bird habitat. Potential collision risk for bats/birds if fishing line alone used.
TP28: West Drive	Approx. 100m from designated Green Chain and amid suitable bat and bird habitat. Potential collision risk for bats/birds if fishing line alone used.
TP29: Styal Road/Halstead Grove	Approx. 15m from designated Green Chain. Arched metal gateway proposed - no ecological issues anticipated
TP30: Park Road/Malvern Road	Surrounding gardens likely to offer suitable bat and bird habitat. Potential collision risk for bats/birds if fishing line alone used.
TP31: Altrincham Road	Adjacent to suitable bat/bird habitat. Record for pipistrelle bat in the locality. Potential collision risk for bats/birds if fishing line alone used.
TP32: Brookside Nursery	Approx. 10m from Gately Carrs Site of Biological Importance (SBI) and Local Nature Reserve (LNR). Located amid good bat and bird habitat. . Potential collision risk for bats/birds if fishing line alone used.
TP33: Kingsway A34	Suitable bat and bird habitat located either side of road. Potential collision risk for bats/birds if fishing line alone used
TP34: Airedale Close	Omitted
TP35/36: Crescent Road	Omitted

Recommendations:

Many of the proposed sites are located amid and/or adjacent to suitable habitat for birds and bats. The scheme includes the provision of white floats (balls) 12.5mm diameter to act as markers. These will be spaced min. 1m apart along the wires in the locations identified as presenting a collision risk to wildlife. It is considered that this will sufficiently increase visibility to bats and birds to reduce the potential risk of collision.

Whilst a coloured float marker would be preferable, it is considered that white balls would still be visible to birds as they would be silhouetted against trees/buildings etc. Birds are most likely to approach the eruv wires on a horizontal plane where the silhouetted balls would be more visible, compared with viewing the balls against the sky from the ground. With regards to bats, the colour of the floats is of less potential concern since bats principally use echolocation to navigate their way through the landscape and so the presence of the floats is sufficient to increase visibility (regardless of colour).

It is understood that the Eruv will be checked regularly (weekly) to ensure it is intact and no wire has broken. This will help reduce the risk of wildlife potentially becoming entangled in loose wire.

Incorporation of these measures within the proposals would help minimise the potential risk of adverse impacts on protected species and moreover will help

protect ecological networks across the borough (3.296 of policy CS8) and maintain habitat connectivity (3.345 of policy SIE-3).

Should planning consent be granted, an informative should be attached to the consent to state that the granting of planning permission does not negate the need to abide by the legislation in place to protect biodiversity. If at any time any protected species are found or are suspected of being present on the site and adversely affected by the scheme, work should cease immediately and an ecologist/LPA should be contacted.

In order to avoid potential adverse impacts on trees, all proposed posts/boundary features should be located outside tree root protection areas and canopy spread areas so as to minimise potential adverse impacts on adjacent trees. All works should be carried out in accordance with British Standard Guidance in relation to tree works. This is important in all of the proposed areas but is of particular significance in location TP20 as the trees here are designated under a Tree Preservation Order.

Providing the proposed posts are located outside tree canopy areas, no vegetation clearance is anticipated to facilitate works. Should any tree works/removal of woody vegetation be required however, this should be undertaken outside the bird nesting season (which is March – August, inclusive) unless otherwise approved by the LPA.

Greater Manchester Ecology Unit (GMEU) – The proposed street furniture is not located in an area which has any nature conservation designations, legal or otherwise.

It appears to be predominantly in residential areas on existing hardstanding, where the potential of impacting upon protected species would be minimal. I would therefore not consider it reasonable to require any further ecological survey work.

An informative should be used so that the developer is aware of the legal protection that certain species receive. If at any time any protected species are found or are suspected of being present on the site and adversely affected by the development, work should cease immediately and an ecologist/LPA should be contacted.

SMBC Arboriculture – (Installations TP20 and TP26 are adjacent to trees with a Tree Preservation Order).

There are legally protected trees within this site or affected by this development. The construction site footprint predominantly sits within the hard standing footprint and informal grounds of the public footway/highway and the proposed new infrastructure will potentially impact on the trees on or around the proposed site.

There is one main concern over the proposed scheme, which is the potential for negative impact on trees on the public highway and within private properties all along the site/route from the construction works of the new poles and connecting lines and infrastructure without any appropriate associated arboriculture impact assessment of the lines within proximity of tree canopies and if they don't wish to position the poles

outside of the root zones of the trees then full method statement for the installation of the poles too.

This will need to consider all existing tree canopy cover with potential negative impact on trees or allow the repositioning of the poles or even replace poles with new planted trees to reach maturity in good form and improve the local environment. In addition it's not clear if any construction traffic, material storage or encroachment would come close to the retained trees and potential impact on them to facilitate the scheme.

Conditions required regarding submission of detailed proposed method statements and proposed tree protection measures, in order to ensure the protection of trees.

SMBC Conservation and Heritage – Having reviewed the plan of the revised proposed locations, it appears that none of the proposed locations are sited within any Conservation Area, nor within the immediate setting of designated heritage assets. As such the scheme now accords with the advice given at the earliest pre-application stage, to seek suitable eruv locations outside of / away from, designated areas and buildings. This approach is therefore, supported and raise no objection to the proposals.

SMBC Public Rights of Way – No comments.

Peak and Northern Footpaths Society – No representation received.

Ramblers Association – No representation received.

GMP Design for Security – Having looked over the plans we would recommend that considerations must be made when making the installations ensuring that no climbing aids are created as a result. In summary we would have no objection to the approval of the application.

Manchester Airport Group – The Safeguarding Authority for Manchester Airport has assessed this proposal and its potential to conflict aerodrome Safeguarding criteria.

We have no aerodrome safeguarding objections to the proposal.

Network Rail – Network Rail has no objection in principle to the proposal location and works, as most of the Eruv installations are not adjacent to the existing operational railway. A holding objection is placed on TPK01, which is adjacent to the boundary with Network Rail land. Once Network Rail is satisfied that the proposed works would not increase the risk to the existing operational railway, the holding objection on the site TPK01 can be withdrawn.

Highways England – Respond to offer no objection.

Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) – As a result of the installation works associated with each site, the affected footway at each site will need to be

reinstated, where necessary, in accordance with relevant Council standards and specifications.

TfGM would refer to the Local Highway Authority (LHA) to confirm if the apparatus is proposed to be installed at a satisfactory distance from the highway in terms of the risk of vehicle strike and sightline visibility.

A minimum footway width of 2m (where the apparatus is positioned) needs to be retained at all locations to ensure pedestrian movements are unimpeded.

Sightline visibility for vehicles, cyclists and pedestrians needs to be maintained and should not be impinged upon by the siting of the apparatus.

Servicing arrangements associated with the apparatus should not impact upon the highway and result in traffic conflicts. Service vehicles should park appropriately and should not use bus lay-bys or footways.

Manchester City Council – No objections to the proposal.

ANALYSIS

Principle of development

Planning Permission is sought for the installation of street furniture in 32 locations, to be located within Predominantly Residential Areas, as regards the Council's development plan.

The application as originally submitted included 35 installations. (Installations TPK8, TP34 and TP35 are now omitted from the application). (Please note that the number reference for each of the installations remains as originally submitted for continuity and ease of reference).

The street furniture is proposed in association with an 'Eruv', which is a notional area, as defined in Jewish law, encompassing an area throughout which the carrying of objects and movement of non-ambulant persons can be carried out on the Sabbath (from sunset on Friday until nightfall on Saturday).

A natural Eruv consisting of existing streets and street furniture already exists within the area, however, there are gaps at certain points, which have resulted in this application for additional street furniture. It is the street furniture that forms the subject of this application.

It is proposed to introduce the following, as shown in the accompanying plans to this report, to complete the gaps in the Eruv:

- 22 pairs of galvanised steel 6 or 5 metre high, 89 millimetre (mm) diameter poles, with a clear nylon fishing wire strung taut between each pair of poles (Installation references: TP02-TP07, TP09, TP11, TP13-TP17, TP20, TP23, TP25-TP28, TP30-TP32);
- 8 galvanised steel archways, 2.4 metres in height of varying widths, with 75mm diameter posts and wrought iron scrollwork atop, powder coated black

(Ref.s TPK01, TPK10, TPK12, TPK18, TPK21, TPK22, TPK24, and TPK29).; and

- Clear nylon fishing wire between 2 sets of existing SMBC lampposts (ref. s TP19 and TP33).
All of the 24 clear nylon fishing wires would additionally include 12.5 millimetre (mm) diameter white float buoys at 1 metre intervals, threaded along the length, in the interests of ecology.

In terms of planning policy related to the principle of the proposed installations, the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the Council's development plan, including Development Management Policy SD-1, promote sustainable forms of development to achieve, for example, well-designed places and to promote healthy and safe communities.

Policy CS8 and Development Management Policy SIE-1 'Quality Places' of the Council's development plan, advocate, for example, that account should be had of materials appropriate to the location; the sites characteristics in relation to context; provision, maintenance and enhancement of access, privacy and amenity for users and residents; the creation of sustainable communities; and the potential for the enhancement of the public realm.

Paragraph 92 of the NPPF states that "To provide the social, recreational and cultural facilities and services the community needs, planning policies and decisions should:

a) plan positively for the provision and use of shared spaces, community facilities (such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, open space, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship) and other local services to enhance the sustainability of communities and residential environments;

b) take into account and support the delivery of local strategies to improve health, social and cultural well-being for all sections of the community;"

Amenity and Community

The installations comprise 22 galvanised steel 6 or 5 metre high, 89 millimetre (mm) diameter poles, with a clear nylon fishing wire, threaded with 12.5mm white floats, strung taut between each pair of poles; 8 galvanised steel archways, 2.4 metres in height of varying widths, with 75mm diameter posts and wrought iron scrollwork atop, powder coated black; and clear nylon fishing wire threaded with 12.5mm white floats between 2 sets of existing SMBC lampposts. The new poles would be installed a distance of 200mm from boundaries and the posts 100mm from boundaries.

Objections have been received regarding, for example, the locations and appearances of the installations, and the creation of street clutter and disamenity because of the installations. The proposed pole and wire street furniture would essentially appear as existing street furniture, which is characteristic of the urban environment context, with the new poles being similar in diameter to a pole for a road sign at 89mm. The 8 archways would be located over footpaths, incorporating a simple form in black powder coated metal.

The locations of the installations are proposed to bridge gaps in the natural Eruv and are sited to minimise their breadth in locations, are not sited directly adjoining boundaries of properties, and are sited away from visibility splays, leaving footways and footpaths an accessible width. The scale and appearance of the installations are such that it is considered that the impact of the location of an installation adjacent to residential properties would not result in an undue impact upon residential amenity, including outlook. Given the scale and siting of the proposed installations and the urban context, it is not considered that the installations would serve to adversely impact upon the appearance of the public realm.

The presence of the notional Eruv would permit members of the community who are Sabbath observant, to increase their participation in community activities, to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing, as advocated by the NPPF and the Council's development plan.

It is accordingly assessed that pursuant to policies, including Policy SIE-1 'Quality Places' of the Council's development plan, the proposed materials and installations are appropriate to the locations; the installations relate to the urban context; access would not be impeded; amenity for users and residents would not be unduly adversely affected; the public realm would not be unduly impacted upon; encouraging a sustainable community.

Some installations would be located adjacent to the boundaries of Conservation Areas, as established above, however, none of the installations would now be located within a Conservation Area. It is considered that pursuant to the NPPF and policies including, Core Strategy policy SIE-3, the installations would not have an impact upon a heritage asset or the setting of a heritage asset, due to the siting, separation, scale and design of the installations.

Highways

The majority of the installations would be located upon the public highway (two to be located on land owned by Stockport Homes). The installations have all been assessed in terms of impacts upon the highway.

It is assessed that the installation of new poles and gateways, and the use of existing street lighting columns, plus the provision of nylon connection will not cause access or safety concerns for users of the highway, or any traffic related concerns. In some locations foam circular buoys will be attached to the wire, these features when in place would not give rise to any highway safety implications and any necessary replacement or maintenance can be undertaken in accordance with the management and maintenance plan to be agreed.

It is noted that the Eruv features will be inspected twice weekly to ensure it is intact and twice yearly for any necessary repairs or strengthening to poles and gateway features. In the unlikely event that the nylon cabling breaks this would be replaced and due process will require authorisation from the Highway Authority (under legislation separate from Planning) to undertake works within the highway.

No objections are raised regarding the highways implications of the proposal, provided a condition is imposed upon any approval granted, in order to ensure an installation, management and maintenance plan is agreed prior to implementation of any part of the Eruv. This is to ensure the installation and maintenance work is undertaken in a safe manner and do not adversely affect highway operation and safety or prejudice the amenities of the occupiers of the adjoining residential properties, in accordance with Policies Development Management T-3 Safety and Capacity on the Highway Network, SIE-1 Quality Places and SIE-3 Protecting, Safeguarding and enhancing the Environment. The details are required prior to the commencement of any part of the development to ensure that installation specification is approved, that formal process and procedure is followed and that future management and maintenance will be provided.

The proposed installations, including archways across footpaths would not specifically conflict with saved UDP policies including L1.7 – Recreation Routes: Maintenance and Expansion of Network, L1.8 – Strategic Recreation Routes and L1.11 – Development Related to Recreation Routes. Due to the proposed siting, design, scale and appearance of the installations, rights of way would be maintained, would not be obstructed, and the installations would appear in keeping with the character and urban environment of the routes.

Ecology and Trees

The proposed application site areas do not have any nature conservation designations, but some of the locations are located adjacent to designated areas, including:

- TP04 –adjacent to Green Chain
- TP19 – adjacent to Green Chain
- TP32 – adjacent to Gatley Carrs Site of Biological Importance (SBI) and Local Nature Reserve (LNR)

The proposals have the potential to adversely impact wildlife that these designated areas support and furthermore the functionality of the designated sites as wildlife corridors has the potential to be impacted. The scheme has been revised however to include measures to reduce the risk of these potential impacts (outlined below).

In many of the sites, proposals involve provision of posts either side of an opening (such as a street) and attaching very fine gauge translucent wire (fishing line) high between the posts to form a barrier. Fishing line is proposed to minimise the visual impact of the Eruv, however the wire would likely not be visible to birds and would also be too fine for bats to detect through echolocation and therefore there is a risk of wildlife colliding with the fishing line and also becoming entangled if it breaks. Harp traps for example are used to catch bats for monitoring purposes and these use fishing line as typically this is too thin for bats to detect through echolocation. This is of particular concern where the proposed fishing line is placed near/within areas of suitable bat and bird habitat (see table below). To reduce the risk of potential adverse impacts on wildlife the scheme has been revised to include the provision of white floats (balls) of 12.5mm diameter to be spaced along the wire (min. 1m intervals). This will increase visibility of the wire to wildlife thereby reducing the risk of potential collision.

Many of the proposed sites are located amid and/or adjacent to suitable habitat for birds and bats. The scheme includes the provision of white floats (balls) 12.5mm diameter to act as markers. These will be spaced min. 1m apart along the wires in the locations identified as presenting a collision risk to wildlife. It is considered that this will sufficiently increase visibility to bats and birds to reduce the potential risk of collision.

Whilst a coloured float marker would be preferable, it is considered that white balls would still be visible to birds as they would be silhouetted against trees/buildings etc. Birds are most likely to approach the eruv wires on a horizontal plane where the silhouetted balls would be more visible, compared with viewing the balls against the sky from the ground. With regards to bats, the colour of the floats is of less potential concern since bats principally use echolocation to navigate their way through the landscape and so the presence of the floats is sufficient to increase visibility (regardless of colour).

It is understood that the Eruv will be checked regularly (weekly) to ensure it is intact and no wire has broken. This will help reduce the risk of wildlife potentially becoming entangled in loose wire.

Incorporation of these measures within the proposals would help minimise the potential risk of adverse impacts on protected species and moreover will help protect ecological networks across the borough (3.296 of policy CS8) and maintain habitat connectivity (3.345 of policy SIE-3).

Should planning consent be granted, an informative should be attached to the consent to state that the granting of planning permission does not negate the need to abide by the legislation in place to protect biodiversity. If at any time any protected species are found or are suspected of being present on the site and adversely affected by the scheme, work should cease immediately and an ecologist/LPA should be contacted.

In order to avoid potential adverse impacts on trees, all proposed posts/boundary features should be located outside tree root protection areas and canopy spread areas so as to minimise potential adverse impacts on adjacent trees.

All works should be carried out in accordance with British Standard Guidance in relation to tree works. This is important in all of the proposed areas, but is of particular significance in locations TP20 and TP26, as the trees here are designated under a Tree Preservation Order. Conditions are required regarding the submission of detailed proposed method statements and proposed tree protection measures, in order to ensure the protection of trees, pursuant to policies including SIE-3: 'Protecting, Safeguarding and Enhancing the Environment.'

Providing the proposed posts are located outside tree canopy areas, no vegetation clearance is anticipated to facilitate works. Should any tree works/removal of woody vegetation be required however, this should be undertaken outside the bird nesting season (which is March – August, inclusive) unless otherwise approved by the LPA.

Airport and Rail Safeguarding

The Safeguarding Authority for Manchester Airport has assessed this proposal and its potential to conflict aerodrome Safeguarding criteria. There are no aerodrome safeguarding objections to the proposal, pursuant to the NPPF, saved UDP policy EP1.9 – Safeguarding of Aerodromes and Air Navigation Facilities, and Core Strategy policies SIE-3: Protecting, Safeguarding and Enhancing the Environment, and SIE-5: Aviation Facilities, Telecommunications and other Broadcast Infrastructure.

Network Rail has no objection in principle to the proposal location and works, as most of the Eruv installations are not adjacent to the existing operational railway. A holding objection is placed on TPK01, which is adjacent to the boundary with Network Rail land, pursuant to Core Strategy policy SIE-3: Protecting, Safeguarding and Enhancing the Environment and the NPPF. Once Network Rail is satisfied that the proposed works would not increase the risk to the existing operational railway, the holding objection on the site TPK01 can be withdrawn.

Conclusion

Overall, it is considered that the proposed installations would constitute a sustainable form of development. The installations would not appear incongruous, appearing similarly to existing street furniture within the street scene contexts and would not unduly impact upon residential amenity. The installations would be sited so as not to impede access and the notional Eruv would permit members of the community to participate in community activities, encouraging a sustainable community, pursuant to National planning policies and the Council's development plan.

The proposal is considered to comply overall with the development plan and the NPPF, subject to the agreement of matters regarding Network Rail, for the reasons set out within the report and therefore, the NPPF requires the development to be approved without delay, once matters regarding Network Rail and installation TPK1 have been resolved.

RECOMMENDATION

The recommendation is to Grant Planning Permission, subject to conditions and to the removal of the holding objection from Network Rail.

(As advised above, Network Rail have lodged a holding objection regarding installation TPK01, to allow Network Rail to obtain information regarding the proposed works to enable Network Rail to assess any impacts upon the railway and to secure any required mitigation measures. The Agent and Applicant are working with Network Rail as regards this matter).