

Heald Green and Long Lane Ratepayers' Association

Watching over the interests of Heald Green ward since 1927



January 2025

Installation of Broadband in Heald Green

We've received a number of queries regarding the installation of broadband poles and equipment in Heald Green. These developments have "permitted development rights," because they are seen as essential infrastructure. The council and councillors have only very limited legal right to intervene.

A particular concern for some residents is the location of the equipment, they have been asking if the council should have notified residents, or consulted. The process with these developments is that the service provider sends a notification to the Local Planning Authority to advise that it intends to use its permitted development rights, which the council is given 28 days to consider. These notifications are given a planning reference number and are available to view on the council's website.

Stockport Council can raise an objection if necessary, for example, on the grounds of highway safety, but it is not able to refuse permission. This notification process is not an application for planning permission, therefore the Planning Department would not issue a public consultation.

We appreciate this has been very concerning for some residents, we wrote to the then MP, Mary Robinson, regarding the matter to voice those concerns. However, it does not seem there is likely to be any change in the national legislation relating to this matter.