



January 8, 2013

Ref: Joint Plan Interpretation #1 – Telecommunication Towers

Background

The Interlocal Agreement Regarding the Chatham-Cary Joint Land Use Plan includes a provision under item 4 allowing the Planning Directors for the respective jurisdictions to reach agreement on interpretations on the joint plan. Chatham County has received an inquiry from a party interested in submitting a conditional rezoning application for a telecommunication tower on property owned by Old Chatham Golf Club (tax parcel #19952).

On the Chatham-Cary Joint Land Use Plan map, this property is identified as Parks, Open Space, Golf Course. The description for this category reads “Includes public and private parks, golf courses, and permanent open space. These areas may include the provision of parking or ancillary buildings and structures required for operating and maintaining the park, golf course, or open space.” The three residential land use categories include a statement that certain uses are considered compatible and complimentary to the surrounding neighborhood and include telecommunication towers. The Parks, Open Space, Golf Course; Mixed Use Node; Office & Institutional; Commercial/Retail; and Light Industrial land use categories do not include a statement regarding telecommunications towers.

Interpretation

It is the interpretation of the Planning Directors for Chatham County and the Town of Cary that telecommunication communication towers are considered a compatible and complementary use in the Parks, Open Space, Golf Course land use category. Since telecommunications towers are considered compatible and complementary in the residential land use categories, it is assumed they are compatible in all of the other land use categories.

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