

Bishampton & Throckmorton Parish Council

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c/o Mr P Luff MP,
Houses of Parliament,
London.

June 18th 2007

RE: Questions for the Government

Dear Sir/Madam,

This Parish Council has been attacked for a lack of action with regard to the planned installation of a mobile phone base station (mast) in Bishampton.

An action/pressure group has been formed to try to prevent the mast being installed, which has distributed information to villagers, and many members of our parish are left genuinely afraid for their health.

All of us are told there is no course of objection because the law allows these masts to be erected without planning permission as long as they are within national guidelines. These are guidelines which we must assume are correctly arrived at and safe for us all.

However, when the 'threat' of a mast comes to our village, the council finds itself with neither support from the Government nor information to reassure its parishioners that they are safe from the controversial radiation emissions.

If the Government believes there is no harm in such installations, this council would like it to say so publicly and reassure its people - in terms they can understand and backed by proper evidence - that they are safe in their homes.

An intolerable situation has arisen in Bishampton where the community has been damaged by this issue, the parish council has been heavily criticised, villagers are protesting outside T-Mobile shops, and the landowner and his family has been hounded for acting within the law.

This council, and many others at ground level nationwide, feel they are left trying to deal with these situations arising from a national policy too distant to be properly understood. The only

information available appears to come from either the many (often dubious) sources on the internet or from the phone companies themselves.

With this in mind, the council has some questions which it hopes can be answered by the relevant minister/officer which it can take back to its parishioners.

Questions

- Please can the Government provide this council with understandable and with up-to-date, advice/information about the radiation which is given off by masts so its parishioners can be fully informed about what they can expect from this installation?
- Please would the Government provide this council with information (put into understandable context) which details health risks associated with mobile phones, wi-fi and other sources of radiation in our homes and communities?
- Can the Government provide this council with some clear information regarding the national safety levels and how they were calculated (in the light of the research which challenges these levels – and differing opinion across Europe)?
- Can the Government clearly explain why some masts can be erected without planning permission, which gives local people no option to make their views known before installation can go ahead?
- The Government must be very confident that there will be no proven adverse health effects from such radiation as it is willing to encourage its installation nationwide. Some top scientists argue that technology has moved on so quickly that it is too early to know. Please can the Government explain the reasons for its confidence?