

Bishampton & Throckmorton Parish Council

Clerk: Carolyn Morris
9 Tilesford Park
Throckmorton
Pershore
Worcs WR10 2LA
Tel: 01386 554058
Email: fimor@aol.com

Iain Wright MP,
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State,
Department for Communities and Local Government,
Eland House,
Bressenden Place,
London,
SW1E 5DU

September 10th 2007

RE: Phone Mast issue in Bishampton, Worcs - Letter to Peter Luff MP
Your ref: YC/IW/018312/07

Dear Mr Wright,

Bishampton Parish Council has instructed me to issue to you the following statement for your kind attention:

Following your recent correspondence with MP Peter Luff, Bishampton Parish Council would like to thank you sincerely for your letter, dated July 10th 2007. However it has prompted some further points and concerns and the members would be grateful for some clarification of these.

Although a phone mast operator is encouraged to carry out consultation locally before any mast is installed, in our case the Parish Council was informed at the same time as the formal notification was sent to the planning authority. There was no consultation with those dwellings nearest the proposed site leaving local residents only able to comment once the site had been chosen and the contract signed by the landowner.

Both the council and local people feel frustrated that this has resulted in no consultation at all before the mast was sited, with no channel for discussion or objection. It would seem The Code of Best Practice leaves the operators themselves to decide on and assess likely sensitivities and does not allow for any retrospective sensitivities to be discussed or addressed. The Council would like to see this Code updated taking into consideration the recent technological developments and would like to ask specifically:

A) If there is a path of redress if the operator has failed to comply with the Code? and

- B) Now that the base station has been installed would there be Consultation/Planning requirement if more or upgraded masts were to be installed?**

The Stewart Report called for an end to this pre-approval process and urged a cautionary approach to the installation of masts. If the government is indeed planning to revoke this power as part of the current review of planning arrangements, as your letter suggests, this Council would be very interested to learn more and perhaps our experience can be cited for the purpose of discussion and consideration.

The Council looks forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Carolyn Morris.
Clerk to Bishampton & Throckmorton Parish Council.