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**To:** [vicky.ryder@sinclairdalby.co.uk](mailto:vicky.ryder@sinclairdalby.co.uk)  
**Subject:** Telecommunications Mast at Little Gaddesden  
**Date:** 08 March 2021 17:13:30

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Hi Vicky

I have made your letter and drawings of the mast available to our residents and they have come back with a number of questions which I hope you can help me with. We are not experts on masts so would appreciate your understanding in our seeking of information.

We appreciate that some questions you will need to refer on to others but perhaps you can respond quickly with what you can answer directly and follow on with the remainder. Can you type in your responses below in a different colour please

Q1. We have a Parish Meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> March so would like to give residents an opportunity to express their views at that meeting, we would therefore ask that the consultation period gives us plenty of time to hold the meeting collate and review comments and provide you with initial feedback and ask you further questions. I think we need a minimum of 4 weeks from now to do that. Can you confirm that is ok with Cornerstone.

A1. **Agreed**

Q2. As the land falls within the Chilterns AONB, will this proposal require a full planning application to be submitted to Dacorum Borough Council. We would like to be certain about this because it clearly affects the timetable for responses.

A2. **Full Planning if mast at 25m, GPDO if mast reduced to 20m – Radio to confirm if the reduced height achieves the same coverage.**

Q3. What is the line of sight Telefonica are hoping to obtain with this mast, i.e. what is the coverage area. Can you show that on a suitable map please?

A3. **Plots attached to email. The site 86950 is required to provide good working coverage for Smart Meters in the areas of Little Gaddesden, Ringshall and surrounds.**

Q4. Is it possible rather than having such a high mast to have several lower height masts that would be less impactful but can cover the area required?

A4. **Several lower height masts would not achieve the coverage required, the mast needs to be above the tree lines and surrounding clutter. it's not just the trees in the immediate area but in the wider background that the mast has to over sail.**

Q5. As the trees are at 12.5 metre in height would not 15m be high enough for the mast?

A5. **The mast needs to be above the tree line to enable coverage to the targeted areas**

Q6. You mentioned in your letter that you had considered siting a mast on the Golf Club land but did not proceed, can you share with us the coverage that location would have achieved?

A6. **I do not have coverage for that area, the mast was proposed next to the club house. Radio preferred the location at Holly Tree Farm as this hits the targeted area for smart meters.**

Q7. Are there any other options for location that you have considered or would like the village to consider? Can you provide a search area map?

A7. **Search Map attached. If there is a preferred option inside the search circle, then please let me know and I will look into them**

Q8. What are the criteria you use for site selection?

A8. **The radio Planner decides where the installation needs to be to achieve coverage demand as show in his plots. Essentially, a site is required to be located in the search circle if it is to be effective**

at covering the Smart Meter Implementation Polygon (SMIP) which is extensive while hitting Little Gaddesden with the strongest signal to penetrate buildings into the meter cupboards. Anywhere outside will need to be much taller and carefully considered for all aspects of efficiency. The current option meets those needs.

Q9. Are the masts at Studham and at Great Gaddesden (both east of the Leighton Buzzard to Hemel Road B440) suitable for covering at least part of the area of coverage that the propose mast in Hudnall would cover?

A9. These masts are not in the search area so would not achieve the coverage for this area.

Q10. Have you taken into your coverage calculations that there is an existing mast at Ringshall, I think it is an EE mast.

A10 Is this within the search area? Sharing a mast would require a significant height increase to enable the required height and separation of the antennas for each operator.

Q11. Have you factored into the choice of location visibility of the mast from areas to the north of the proposal, i.e. from the Church of St Peter and St Paul and the Chiltern Way, homes to the north west and homes to the North East?

A11. The existing foliage behind the site and existing surrounding buildings will provide partial screening of the mast from other viewpoints.

Q12. Have you any proposals for landscaping to reduce the visible impact of the mast?

A12. LPA will advise on this once planning submitted

Q13. Have you any proposals to disguise the mast?

A13. LPA will advise on this once planning submitted

Q14. The proposed location is very close to some houses, could the site be relocated away from houses further into the field?

A14. The mast needs to be located close to existing power and BT supply.

Q15. Although an arrow indicates an access point, there is no plan showing a set-back for the entrance, a gate etc, could you confirm whether you plan to create a new access point from Hudnall Lane or use the existing entrance to Holly Tree Farm or the existing access from Hudnall Lane just a few metres to the east of the proposed mast?

A15. Access will be discussed with the SP

Q16. Your proposal shows a certain amount of equipment on the mast, 3 x antenna, 2 x 0.3m microwave dishes. What is the mechanism controlling the proliferation of additional equipment. If companies are encouraged to share facilities what starts as a few items could explode into dozens of different communication devices?

A16. This site is for TEF only. There are no plans for other operators. If sharing was proposed, then this would have to go through the same process as pre-consultation and planning and a new landlord agreement. We are only instructed for TEF.

Q17. This is a very tall structure. Is there any intention or requirement to have any nocturnal lighting at the top or anywhere else on the structure or at the installation site (including entrance)? If so, during what hours will the light operate, will it be flashing or constant, and how powerful will it be?

A17 No lights planned.

Q18. I understand that these masts require substantial power units which generate significant

noise. Can you confirm the noise levels of power units associated with the proposal?

A18. A small meter cabinet is proposed to provide power. Generators normally produce grater noise, and one is not proposed for this site.

Q19. Has Luton Airport been consulted yet, as the proposed mast site falls within the statutory Luton Airport Aerodrome Safeguarding Zone and the law requires this, as does the National Planning Policy Framework? (The site is also directly under its easterly operations flightpath).

<https://www.london-luton.co.uk/corporate/aerodrome-safeguarding>

A19. Developer's Notice would be issued to advise them of the proposal and invite them to comment. This is issued at the same time as the planning application.

Smart Meters communicate over the O2 radio network, and the often-deep indoor locations of meters means that a good signal is needed for the meters to work.

Without this site only a small proportion of meters would be able to achieve reliable connectivity.

Although some properties could currently have a smart meter install, there are many that would not have adequate deep indoor radio service to work. Site 86950 will provide that coverage and allow successful meter connectivity.

Additional question.

'The proposed site looks within 10 metres of the entrance to a public right of way popular with families, DoE Award hikers, ramblers and dog walkers who primarily visit for the rural charm of the area. It is also very near to family homes. The UK Government Guidance "Mobile phone base stations: radio waves and health" (September 2020) states: "With some of the larger and more powerful base stations, there can be regions around the antennas within which the [safe radio wave] guideline levels can be exceeded. Operators identify the extent of any such regions and prevent access to them by the public."

Can the promoter guarantee there will be no regions identified where radio waves exceed safe guideline levels, which include either any part of the public right of way or any area within the property boundary of Field End, Hudnall Lane, Little Gaddesden, Hertfordshire HP4 1QE?

Regarding the comment above, the site is ICNIRP compliant so by definition there are no publicly accessible areas which exceed safe guidelines.

Sorry there are so many questions, if you need any clarification do not hesitate to ring me on the number below

Regards

***Alastair Greene***

***Parish Clerk***

***Little Gaddesden Parish Council***

***Our web site is [www.littlegaddesdenpc.org.uk](http://www.littlegaddesdenpc.org.uk)***

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