SYSTEMS LTD
SOUTHPORT U.K.
LONDON OFFICE

APPLICATION NO:
TL/2000/2871

LOCATION:
Land Adjoining Duffields Bridge Duffield Road Woodley Reading.

APPLICANT:
Orange P C S Ltd C/O Patrick Farfan Associates Ltd

PROPOSAL:
Proposed erection of 8 metre high telecommunications pole with 3 directional antennae and equipement cabinet.

EARLIEST DATE FOR DECISION: **25/12/2000**

APPLICATION WILL HAVE EXPIRED ON:
11/01/2001

CASE OFFICER: **Joss Miller**

Appeal Decision

Hearing held on 11 October 2001

by Phillip Ware BSc(Hons) DipTP MRTPI

an Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State for the Transport, Local Government and the Regions

The Planning Inspectorate
4/09 Kite Wing
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Temple Quay
Bristol BS1 6PN
☎ 0117 372 6372
e-mail: enquiries@planning-inspectorate.gsi.gov.uk

Date
05 NOV 2001

Appeal Ref: APP/X0360/A/01/1068471
Land adjoining Duffield Bridge, Duffield Road, Woodley

- The appeal is made under section 78 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 against a refusal to grant approval of the siting and appearance of telecommunications development under the prior approval procedures in Part 24 of Schedule 2 to the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 (as amended).
- The appeal is made by Orange PCS Ltd against the decision of Wokingham District Council.
- The application (ref: TL/2000/2871), dated 29 November 2000, was refused by notice dated 5 January 2001.
- The proposal is the erection of an 8 metre high telecommunications mast with three directional antennae and an equipment cabinet.

Summary of Decision: The appeal is allowed.

Main issue

1. The Council's reason for refusal stated that the proposal would be unacceptably close to residential properties. It was confirmed at the Hearing that the Council did not oppose the development on health grounds, but that it supported resident's concerns over the effect on public health. On that basis, I consider that there is one main issue in this case, namely whether public concern about the health risks arising from the installation of the proposed equipment represents a justifiable reason for dismissing the appeal.

The development plan and planning guidance

1. The development plan comprises the Berkshire Structure Plan (SP) 1991-2006, adopted in 1995, and the Loddon Area Local Plan 1995. I must determine this appeal in accordance with the development plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise. No policies from the Local Plan were drawn to my attention. I was also referred to the draft Wokingham District Local Plan (DLP) 1997 (as proposed to be modified) but, whilst this plan is a material consideration, it clearly does not have the same force as an adopted plan.

2. SP Policy TC1 states that planning permission will normally be granted for telecommunications development. Where there is a potential conflict with environmental objectives, telecommunications development will be allowed subject to certain criteria. This is reflected at DLP Policy WIC14, which also provides that, before permission is granted, applicants will be required to show that no alternative less visually intrusive site is available or technically feasible.

Reasons - public concern about health risks

3. The appeal site is located on the north side of Duffield Road, on a triangular area of land bounded by a railway cutting, the road, and the curtilage of a residential property. The surrounding area on the south side of the railway cutting is overwhelmingly residential in nature, with dwellings fronting Duffield Road and two other roads (Copse Mead and Highcliffe Close) running to the east and west.

4. It was agreed that the proposed installation would be some 20 metres from the nearest dwelling and about 11 metres from the garden of that property. In addition to the effect on the residents of that house and others in the area, concern was also expressed by the public regarding the effect of the proposal on the health of pedestrians using the railway bridge, including schoolchildren who apparently often linger to look at the trains below.

5. This type of public concern about the possible health effects associated with telecommunications base stations resulted in the Government asking the National Radiological Protection Board (NRPB) to set up an Independent Expert Group on Mobile Phones, chaired by Sir William Stewart. The Group's report (the Stewart Report) explained that base stations emit radiofrequency radiation, and referred to the 1993 NRPB national guidelines which control maximum levels of exposure. Further guidelines were published in 1998 by the International Commission on NonIonizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP), which set more stringent exposure levels for members of the public. These were incorporated into a European Council Recommendation in 1999.

6. The Stewart Report concluded that the balance of evidence indicated that there is no general risk to the health of people living near to base stations, as exposures are expected to be a small fraction of the guidelines. However, it also referred to the possibility of indirect adverse effects in some cases. As a result, it recommended that a precautionary approach be taken to the use of mobile phone technologies until more detailed and scientifically robust information on any health effects becomes available. The Government accepted this approach, which is limited to the specific recommendations in the report, including the need to meet the stringent ICNIRP guidelines for public exposure to electromagnetic fields. The Government acknowledged that most existing base stations already meet these guidelines, and that all new base stations will do so. In this case, uncontested evidence was put forward to demonstrate that the proposed installation would be well within the guidelines.

7. National planning guidance on telecommunications proposals is contained in Planning Policy Guidance note 8 (PPG8) 2001. In particular, PPG8 states that, as all new proposals will meet the ICNIRP guidelines, it should not be necessary for a planning authority to consider health effects further. PPG8 also states that the planning system is not the appropriate mechanism for determining health safeguards, and I consider that this advice is directly relevant to the current appeal.

8. In considering the appeal, I am conscious that there is a Railtrack transmitting facility close to the location of the proposed mast. However, no evidence was put forward regarding the emissions from this site and it was stated for the appellants that this operated on a different frequency, and that there would be no cumulative effect from the two installations. This was not contested by the Council.

9. In summary, there is no evidence before me to indicate that the proposal would conflict with the aim of safeguarding neighbours from any harmful effects of the development. I have been made well aware of the strength of local concern about health matters which has been expressed both in letters of representation and at the Hearing, and I fully accept that such concerns are a material consideration in determination of this appeal. However, these concerns do not provide a sufficiently strong basis to outweigh the technical advice and very recently published national policy, as set out above. Particularly in the absence of any suggestion by the Council that the proposal would conflict with any local or national policy, I therefore conclude that public concern about the health risks arising from the installation of the proposed equipment is not a justifiable reason for dismissing the appeal.

Other material considerations and conclusion

10. Further support for the proposal is provided by the need for the development. The appellant stated that the proposal is intended to provide enhanced coverage for the residential area around the site, particularly within buildings, and coverage for trains using the railway cutting. This is not contested by the Council, although residents have suggested that the need for coverage in the railway cutting is the main reason for the proposal, and it was suggested that the level of service in the surrounding area is adequate. In any event, PPG8 advises that planning authorities should not question the need for the service, and all parties agree that there is no signal in the railway cutting.

11. The appellant has set out the constraints on the search for alternative sites, and the reasons why certain sites were rejected, and I have no reason to doubt this evidence. In particular, the golf course to the north of the cutting was rejected by the landowner, and other sites further to the north, along the A4, were agreed to be too distant to provide coverage. The possibility of an installation mounted on the bridge or within the cutting to give coverage to those on trains was discussed, but the appellant stated that Railtrack had rejected this option which, in any event, would not provide enhanced coverage for the surrounding area.

12. No evidence of other possible alternative sites, potential for using existing buildings or other methods of achieving the coverage have been put before me. I therefore consider that the requirement of DLP Policy WIC14 relating to alternative sites has been met.

13. I have also considered the effect of the proposal on the streetscene. I consider that the proposal would be viewed in the context of other items of street furniture in Duffield Road, and would make no significant difference to the appearance of the area, especially given the slimline nature of the design and the backdrop of mature trees.

14. I have considered the conditions discussed at the Hearing in the light of the advice in Circular 11/95. I consider that, in the interests of the streetscene, the details of the colour of the mast should be the subject of approval by the Council. The equipment cabinet is shown as being painted green, and I do not see any need for this condition to relate to the cabinet.

15. For the reasons given above and having regard to all other matters raised, I conclude that the appeal should be allowed.

Formal decision

16. In exercise of the powers transferred to me, I allow the appeal and approve the siting and appearance of the development proposed in application ref. TL/2000/2871, dated 29 November 2000, in accordance with the submitted plan, under the provisions of Part 24 of Schedule 2 to the Town and Country (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 (as amended), subject to the following condition:

> No development shall take place until details of the external finish and colour of the mast have been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. The development shall be carried out in accordance with the approved details.

Information

17. This decision only grants prior approval under Part 24 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995. It does not give any other approval or consent that may be required.

18. An applicant for any approval required by a condition attached to this decision has a statutory right of appeal to the Secretary of State if that approval is refused or granted conditionally or if the authority fails to give notice of its decision within the prescribed period.



Inspector

APPEARANCES

FOR THE APPELLANT:

Mr D Lewis DipEP DipTP MRTPI	Heritage Planning
Mr N Hodgson	Patrick Farfan Associates
Mr R Francis	Orange PCS Ltd

FOR THE LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY:

Mr M Evans BA MA MPhil DipTP MRTPI	Wokingham District Council
M J Miller BA Arch(Hons) PG TP	Wokingham District Council

INTERESTED PERSONS:

Mr D Tindall BEng CEng MIEE	Resident, 25 Copse Mead
Miss A F Carter	Resident, 16 Highcliffe Close
Mr P Rose BEng CEng FIEE	Resident, 35 Copse Mead
Mr D Johnson	Resident, 8 Duffield Road
Mr M Evans	Resident, 18C Copse Mead
Mr Drakeford - Lewis BA FCA	Resident, 8 Highcliffe Close

DOCUMENTS

Document	1	List of persons present at the Hearing
Document	2	Council's letter of notification and list of persons notified
Document	3	Letters of representation received before the Hearing
Document	4	Department of Health publication "Mobile Phones and Health" (12/00)
Document	5	Appendices 1 – 12 to the Appellant's statement
Document	6	Appendices 1 – 3 to the Council's statement

PLANS

Plan A The application plan (30/BRK7033/01 0)

PHOTOGRAPHS

Photo A Photographs showing mobile phone reception around the appeal site

WOKINGHAM DISTRICT COUNCIL

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACTS

REFUSAL OF PRIOR APPROVAL OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS NOTIFICATION

Mr P Fitzgerald
Patrick Farfan Associates Ltd
Unit C Quay West
Salamander Quay
Park Lane
Harefield
Middlesex
UB9 6NZ

Notification No: TL/2000/2871

Parish: Woodley

Proposal: Proposed erection of 8 metres high telecommunications mast with three directional antennae and equipment cabinet.

Location: Land adjoining Duffield Bridge, Duffield Road, Woodley

The Wokingham District Council in pursuance of their powers under Part 24 of the Town and Country (General Permitted Development) (Amendment) Order 1998 **REFUSES** prior approval for the above stated telecommunications equipment, the reasons for which are specified hereunder.

1. The proposal is unacceptable in view of its proximity to residential properties.

Date: 05 January 2001

Development Control Manager

Wokingham District Council, Environmental Services Department, PO Box 157, Shute End
Wokingham, RG40 1WR

Fax

To:	Mr P Fitzgerald	**Tel:**	01895 823700
		Fax:	01895 821 214
From:	Joss Miller	**Tel:**	0118 974 6463
		Fax:	0118 974 6486

Re: TL/2000/2871

CC:

Number of pages including cover sheet: 2

Date: 5/01/01

Please find attached decision notice for application TL/2000/2871.

Tel. 0118 974 6463 (Direct Line)

Date. 2 January, 2001

My ref. JM/MLT/TL/2000/2871

Your ref.

Mr P Fitzgerald
Patrick Farfan Associates Ltd
Unit C Quay West
Salamander Quay
Park Lane
Harefield
Middlesex
UB9 6NZ

Environmental Services Department
Planning Services
P.O. Box 157
Shute End, Wokingham
Berkshire RG40 1WR
Tel: (0118) 974 6000
Fax: (0118) 974 6484
Minicom No: (0118) 977 8909
DX: 33506 – Wokingham
E-mail:

Dear Mr Fitzgerald,

RE: PROPOSED TELECOMMUNICATIONS DEVELOPMENT AT:
1) LAND ADJACENT TO DUFFIELDS BRIDGE, DUFFIELD ROAD, WOODLEY. (TL/2000/2871)
2) OUTSIDE 2 KING STREET LANE, WINNERSH (TL/2000/2873)
3) LAND AT JUNCTION OF READING ROAD/OLD FOREST ROAD, WINNERSH (TL/2000/2874)

I refer to your letters dated 21st December 2000, concerning the above, in response to this Council's letters advising that it requires prior notification for all three developments.

The relevant correspondence has been examined by the Council's Principal Solicitor, who is of the opinion that our notification letters are sufficiently clear and unambiguous, and are not ultra vires.

Firstly, I must inform you that only the Courts have the authority to decide whether or not the actions of a Local Planning Authority are ultra vires. Orange has no such power or rights to so decide on their own initiative. However, Orange does have the right to apply to the Courts for a declaration that a Local Planning Authority has acted ultra vires.

Secondly, I can only assume that your letters are a consequence of Orange being unfamiliar with all aspects of Circular 04/99 (Planning for Telecommunications). Therefore, I am writing to offer clarification.

Circular 04/99 (Planning for Telecommunications) states that the developer must apply to the Local Planning Authority for its determination as to whether prior approval will be required to the siting and appearance of the proposed development. Therefore, if a Local Planning Authority requires prior approval, it goes without saying that the prior approval must be because of the appearance and/or siting. In all three of our letters we refer to proximity. My version of The Concise Oxford Dictionary of Current English

defines proximity as ***"nearness in space, time etc."*** It is therefore obvious that reference to proximity means that the Local Planning Authority is concerned as to the proposed siting. None of the letters makes any reference to appearance being of concern. Therefore, it may be assumed that the Local Planning Authority has not required prior approval because of the appearance of the proposed development.

Paragraphs 11, 12 and 13 of Circular 04/99 refer to factors to be considered in relationship to siting and appearance. Paragraphs 11 and 12 use the terms ***'include'*** and ***'may involve'***. Thus the items listed are illustrations rather than a definitive list. Paragraph 12 states that factors concerning siting may involve ***"....the site in relation to residential property"***.

All three of our letters state the reason for requiring prior approval as being because of ***"proximity to dwellings"*** or ***"proximity to residential properties"***. As this clearly falls within the scope of 'the site in relation to residential property' our reasons for requiring prior approval are clearly in accordance with Circular 04/99.

If Orange disagree with our decision on prior approval applications they should submit appeals. Alternatively, they are at liberty to go to the Courts as to whether our actions are ultra vires.

In view of the above, I should be grateful if you will confirm that Orange will not act unlawfully by ignoring the letters that have clearly advised you of the need for prior notification.

Yours sincerely

M L THORP
Principal Development Control Officer

PLANNING SERVICES	HPT 38196
POL	TLS
DC	ENF
APP	
CS	MLT
28 DEC 2000	
COPIES TO:	ACK:
	FILE:

Reply Required

Mike Thorp
Wokingham District Council
Environmental Services Dept
Planning Services
PO Box 157
Shute End
Wokingham
Berkshire
RG40 1WR

Patrick Farfan
ASSOCIATES LIMITED

Unit C Quay West
Salamander Quay
Park Lane Harefield
Middlesex
UB9 6NZ

Tel 01895 823700
Fax 01895 821214
email-frog@farfan.demon.co.uk

21st December 2000

Dear Mr Thorp

RE: TL/2000/2871

Further to your letter dated 8th December, I write regarding the planning application referenced above.

Orange consider that the reason given in your correspondence for requiring prior approval for this application as 'ultra-vires'.

Unless valid reasons for requiring prior approval are received before the end of the 42 day period, Orange will consider this application approved and proceed to build the installation.

I look forward to hearing from you,

Yours sincerely,

Paul Fitzgerald

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Head office Manchester: Tel 0161 877 7007. Offices throughout the UK and Europe.

Registered in England Company Reg No 2875575 VAT Reg No GB 628944109

30·11·2000

TL/2000/2871

Patrick Farfan
ASSOCIATES LIMITED

Unit C Quay West
Salamander Quay
Park Lane Harefield
Middlesex
UB9 6NZ

Tel 01895 823700
Fax 01895 821214
email-frog@farfan.demon.co.uk

Planning Department,
1st Floor
Wokingham District Council,
Shute End,
Wokingham,
Berkshire,
RG40 1WR.

FAO Ms Naomi Dawes.

29 November 2000.

REFUSED

Dear Ms Dawes,

ORANGE PCS Ltd. MICROCELL SITE BRK7033 SONNING.

Notice of intention to install telecommunications apparatus pursuant to:

1. The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 (Schedule 2 Part 24).

2. The licence granted to Orange Personal Communications Limited under Section 7 of the Telecommunications Act 1984.

I confirm that Patrick Farfan Associates Ltd act on behalf of Orange PCS Ltd in submitting this notification.

Orange Personal Communications Services Ltd is a Telecommunications Code System Operator. Under the terms of the licence issued by the DTI, Orange is under an obligation to provide a national telecommunications service and to meet all reasonable customer demands for the provision of that service.

The Orange Network is in direct commercial competition with other communications systems such as BT and cable operators. As a result their customers expect a reasonable level of service within buildings both at home and at work .

Orange are sensitive to the fact that many locations do not lend themselves to the siting of Macrocells, commonly Rooftop Stub Masts or 15m high lattice masts or Columns with a 12m² fenced compound from a siting and appearance aspect.

With a requirement to provide a service to residential and commercial properties, in keeping with the Code of Best Practice, Orange have taken advantage of improvements in technology to reduce visual impact and developed the Microcell.

This is a stand alone steel telegraph pole, mounted antenna. It has been designed to match existing street furniture such as Lampposts,and Electricity supply poles.

However, unlike BT or Cable Operators, Orange do not need to site telegraph poles every 30m or so, they do not need to fly overhead lines or dig up miles of footway and carriageway, to provide a communications connection to every commercial and residential property.

Orange need only deploy two or three carefully sited telegraph poles to provide coverage to an entire residential area, village, business or retail park. The telegraph pole and cabinet can even be painted to match a particular Local Authority colour scheme if required.

I appreciate that this technology is very new and that this method of providing communications is not something that people are used to seeing, however even BT telegraph poles were once not part of the street scene and they are now accepted as the norm.

Orange propose just three Microcell sites to cover the entire Sonning area. This application refers to a grass verge adjacent to the footway near to the junction of Pound Lane and Duffield Road. Further applications for each site will be submitted separately.

Orange Personal Communications Ltd hereby give notice as required under the terms of their Licence and make application for determination with regard to details of siting and appearance pursuant to Part 24, Class A, Condition A.2(4) of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 in respect of the following development:

The erection of a free-standing telegraph pole maximum 8m in height with 3 No directional antenna will be installed.

In conjunction with the above column, an equipment cabinet will also be installed with an overall dimension of 0.94 cubic metres.

Location. OS Grid Ref: 476617 E. 174513 N.

Address. Grass verge, East side, Adjacent to south side of Railway, Duffield Road, Woodley, Reading, RG5 4RP.

Enclosures: Planning Drawing No 30/BRK7033 E/01
Location plan (1:1250)
Site Layout plan (1:250)
Elevations of column and cabinet (1:100 & 1:50)
Annex C from the Code of Best Practice.

Prescribed Fee. £35.00.

The location was chosen for the following reasons:

1. It will improve coverage within the surrounding residential areas.
2. The location will maximise coverage and limit the number of installations required.
3. The verge is wide and the siting will not impede pedestrian movements.
4. The location will not encroach into visibility splays of traffic or pedestrian users of the Highway and access roads.
5. The column and cabinet are sited in line with adjacent street furniture so as to blend with the existing street scene.
6. The location is close to the REC power supply and therefore minimise excavation of the Highway.

All communication regarding this notice should be made to myself at the address and telephone number given above,

Yours faithfully,

Paul Fitzgerald
Acquisition Consultant.

30·11·2000

TL/2000/2871

1: Pre-Application Consultation with Local Planning Authority

(i) Licence notification i.e. pre roll out of network Date.....

Name of L.P.A. Contact.....

Phone # of L.P.A. Contact.....

(ii) On sites in specific cell(s) Date....29.11.2000.....

Name of L.P.A. Contact.... .....Naomi Dawes.....

Phone # of L.P.A. contact.....0118 977 8893.....

2A: Name and Address of Applicant

Name... .....Orange PCS Ltd.....

Address: .Floor 2 & 3, Black Arrow House, 2 Chandos Road, London.....

Postcode...NW10 6NF....Tel.....0181 963 4100.....

2B: Agent's Name, Address and Contact

Name...Patrick Farfan Associates Ltd..... .....

Address.Unit "C", Quay West, Salamander Quay, Park Lane Harefield, Middx.

Postcode:..UB9 6NZ.....Tel: ...01895 823700.....

Contact:..Mr Paul Fitzgerald..... Tel:....01895 823700.....

2C: Location of Proposal

Location: Grass verge, East side, Adjacent to south side of Railway, Duffield Road, Woodley, Reading, RG5 4RP.

2D: O.S. Sheet / Grid Reference

Sheet and six figure grid reference of proposed development

Sheet.....Landranger..175 ..... Grid Reference: E 476617 N 174513.....

Copy.

30.11.2000

T/H/2000/2871

SITE NOTICE

Proposed development at Grass verge, East side, Adjacent to south side of Railway, Duffield Road, Woodley, Reading, RG5 4RP.

OS Grid Ref. 476617 E. 174513 N.

I give notice that Patrick Farfan Associates Ltd

On behalf of Orange PCS Ltd

Is applying to Wokingham District Council

Under paragraph A.2(4A) of Part 24 of Schedule 2 to the Town and Country planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 for its determination as to whether the prior approval of the authority will be required to the siting and appearance of the erection of a free-standing telecommunications telegraph pole, maximum 8m in height housing 3 no. directional antennae. In conjunction with the above telegraph pole, an equipment cabinet will also be installed with an overall dimension of 0.94 cubic metres.

Under Part 24 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995, Wokingham District Council are allowed 42 days beginning with the date of application to consider whether prior approval will be required to the siting and appearance of the development proposed and, if so, to give or refuse such approval and to serve that decision upon the applicant.

Members of the public may inspect copies of the application and accompanying plans at;

Wokingham District Council
Planning Department
Shute End
Wokingham
Berkshire
RG40 1WR

Individuals and organisations wishing to make representation about the siting and appearance of the proposed development are invited to forward their views in writing no later than 9th September 1999 to Ms Naomi Dawes, Wokingham District Council, Planning Department, Shute End, Wokingham, Berkshire, RG40 1WR.

Clearly stating that comments are being forwarded in relation to the proposed development of a ground based mast at Grass verge, East side, Adjacent to south side of Railway, Duffield Road, Woodley, Reading, RG5 4RP.

OS Grid Ref. 476617 E. 174513 N.

Signed : P. Myers

On Behalf of : Orange PCS Ltd.

Dated : 29th November 2000

30.11.2000

TL/2000/2871

Dear Sir

RE: Enclosed planning application on behalf of Orange PCS Ltd

The Independent Expert Group on Mobile Phones (the Stewart Report) made various recommendation relating to base station sites.

One of the recommendations was that the guidelines for public exposure set by ICNIRP (International Commission on Non-Ionising Radiation Protection) should be adopted for use in the UK.

Orange have welcomed the recommendation that base station sites should comply with the ICNIRP guidelines for public exposure and we believe this will increase public confidence in the safety of transmitter sites.

The Department of Environment, Transport and the Regions have issued guidance to the Local Authorities stating that if a new telecommunications site meets the ICNIRP guidelines then it is not necessary for a Planning Authority processing an application to consider the health effects further.

Therefore the purpose of this letter is to confirm that the Orange site proposed at

BRK7033 **Grass Verge (East Side)**
Adjacent to South Side of Railway
Duffield Road
Woodley
Reading
RG5 4RP

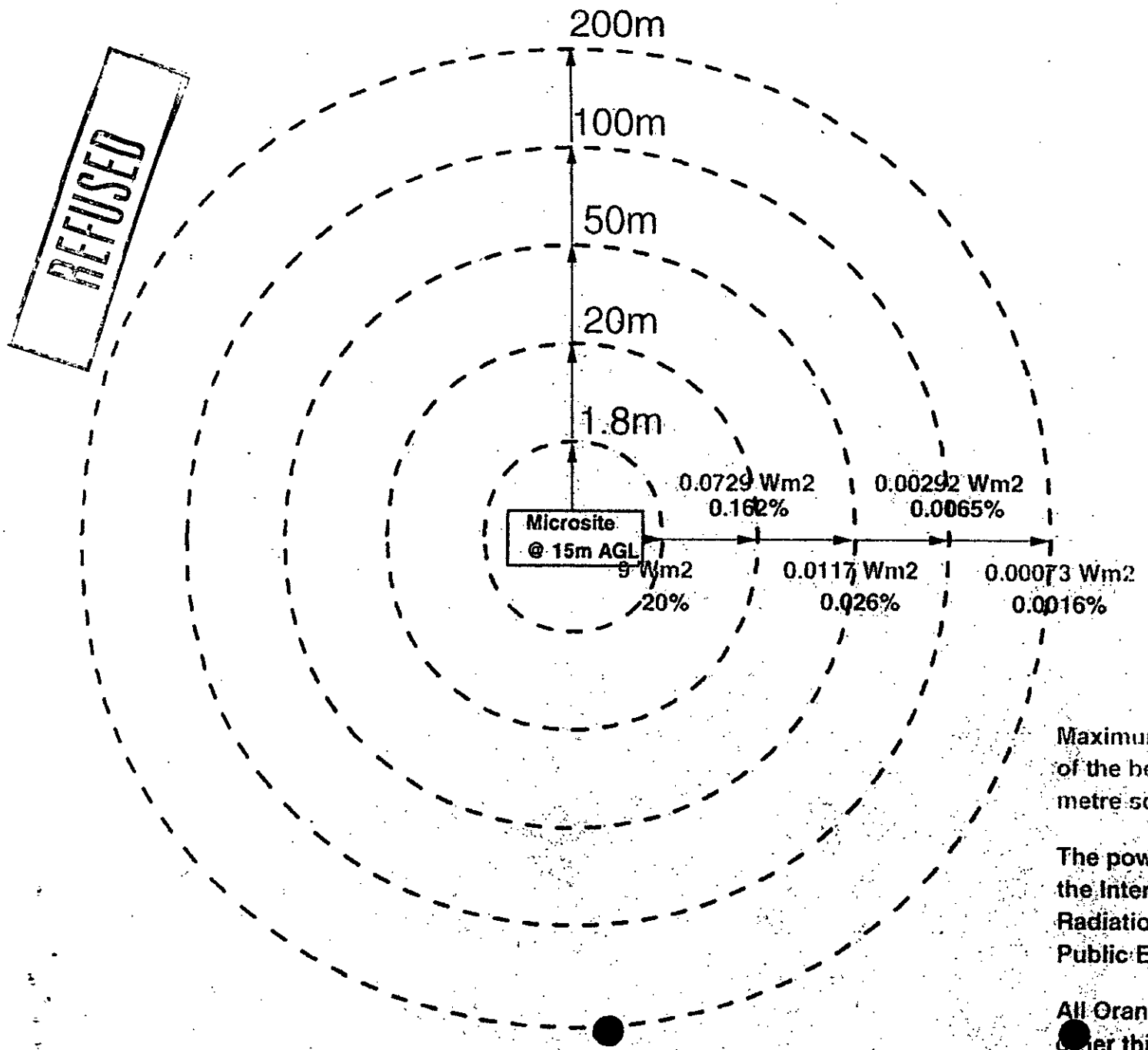
meets the ICNIRP guidelines.

The attached sketch is for reference and gives outputs from a similar microcell to that which is proposed at the location above and relates power levels as a percentage of ICNIRP guidelines.

Yours faithfully,

Paul Fitzgerald

Microcell power levels along the centre of the beam



Maximum power levels that occur along th ce tr of the beam of the antenna measured in W tts metre square.

The power output measured as a percentage of the International Commission for Non-Ionising Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) guidelines for Public Exposure.

All Orange sites that are used by workers and other third parties also comply with the ICNIRP guidelines for Occupational Exposure.

WORK SHEET FOR : Joss Miller

Application Number : TL/2000/2871

Applicant : Orange P C S Ltd C/O Patrick Farfan Associates Ltd.

Location : Land Adjoining Duffields Bridge, Duffield Road, Woodley, Reading.

Proposal : Proposed erection of 8 metre high telecommunications pole with 3 directional antennae and equipement cabinet.

Site Notice Displayed ? :	YES	NO	DATE
	✓		8/12

Date of Neighbour Notifications : 1/12

Date of Site Visit : 8/12

Date Registered : 30/11/2000

Earliest Date for Decision : 25/12/2000

Latest Consultation Date/Site Notice Expiry Date : 25/12/2000

This application will have expired on: 11/01/2001. You need to make a decision 1 day prior to this date for this application to count as determined in less than 8 weeks.

Consultation Responses :

32 Neighbours – object due to perceived health risks & visual amenity
petition = 81 signatures pp.
Env Health – No objection
Property – No objection
Woodley TC – object – health risks & visual amenity
Highways – No objection

Planning Issues :

Effect on street scene & neighbouring properties DR21.
Identified settlement.

Application Number: TL/2000/2871

Appraisal :

This application is for an 8m high pole with 3 directional antennae and equipment cabinet.

Street scene
The boundary is open and the pole will be clearly visible on the street scene. The pole is a monopole and, therefore, any adverse effect on the street scene will be minimise.

Neighbours
The nearest neighbour is 20m from the mast. There are several dwellings within close proximity of the mast. Many letters of objection have been received which convey concerns relating to perceived health risks. For these reasons this application will be refused.

Recomendation : Approval: ☐ **Refusal:** ☑
(tick appropriate box)

Application Number TL/2000/2871
Conditions/Reasons for Refusal

No	Std Con	Std Reas	Non Std Conditions / Reasons for Refusal
			The proposed mast is unacceptable due to its close proximity to the surrounding dwellings.
			The proposed mast is unacceptable due to the perceived health risks of the residents.

RECORD OF SITE VISIT

SITE ADDRESS: Land Adjoining Duffields Bridge Duffield Road Woodley Reading.

APPLICATION NUMBER: TL/2000/2871

OFFICER: Joss Miller

DATE OF SITE VISIT: 8/12

1 SITE/STATUTORY NOTICE DISPLAYED ? Yes on telegraph pole.

2. DESCRIPTION OF SURROUNDINGS

Dwellings nearby.
Railway.

3. DESCRIPTION OF SITE/BUILDING

open area.

4. RELATIONSHIP TO ADJOINING PROPERTIES

- proximity to residential properties.

5. SITE CONSTRAINTS

TREES ~

ACCESS/PARKING ~

LEVELS ~

BOUNDARY TREATMENT open.

OTHERS ~

Rec'd by hand
11/10/01

Willow Bank Junior School
Duffield Road, Woodley, Reading RG5 4RW
Telephone 0118 969 1556 Fax 0118 969 7816

Headteacher Geof Forster

10th October 2001

Mrs D Gumbrell
Appeals Assistant
Environmental Services Department
Planning Services
P O Box 157
Shute End
Wokingham
Berks RG40 1WR

Dear Mrs Gumbrell

Re: Proposed erection of 8 metre high telecommunications pole, on land adjoining Duffield Bridge, Duffield Road, Woodley

Further to your letter dated 17th September 2001, addressed to Mrs S Olsen concerning the above.

The Governors of Willow Bank Junior School would like to register their concern for the health and safety of the children who attend both the Infants and Junior Schools and also to the close proximity of this proposed erection to the school.

Yours sincerely

pp Geoff Gee
Chair of Governors

Rec'd by hand
11/10/01

Willow Bank Junior School
Duffield Road, Woodley, Reading RG5 4RW
Telephone 0118 969 1556 Fax 0118 969 7816

Headteacher Geof Forster

10th October 2001

Mrs D Gumbrell
Appeals Assistant
Environmental Services Department
Planning Services
P O Box 157
Shute End
Wokingham
Berks RG40 1WR

Dear Mrs Gumbrell

Re: Proposed erection of 8 metre high telecommunications pole, on land adjoining Duffield Bridge, Duffield Road, Woodley

Further to your letter dated 17th September 2001, addressed to Mrs S Olsen concerning the above.

The Governors of Willow Bank Junior School would like to register their concern for the health and safety of the children who attend both the Infants and Junior Schools and also to the close proximity of this proposed erection to the school.

Yours sincerely

pp Geoff Gee
Chair of Governors

Rec'd by hand
11/10/01

Willow Bank Junior School
Duffield Road, Woodley, Reading RG5 4RW
Telephone 0118 969 1556 Fax 0118 969 7816

Headteacher Geof Forster

10th October 2001

Mrs D Gumbrell
Appeals Assistant
Environmental Services Department
Planning Services
P O Box 157
Shute End
Wokingham
Berks RG40 1WR

Dear Mrs Gumbrell

Re: Proposed erection of 8 metre high telecommunications pole, on land adjoining Duffield Bridge, Duffield Road, Woodley

Further to your letter dated 17th September 2001, addressed to Mrs S Olsen concerning the above.

The Governors of Willow Bank Junior School would like to register their concern for the health and safety of the children who attend both the Infants and Junior Schools and also to the close proximity of this proposed erection to the school.

Yours sincerely

Geoff Gee
Chair of Governors

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990

SECTION 78 APPEAL

APPELLANT:	Orange PCS Ltd
APPEAL SITE:	Land ajoining Duffields Bridge, Duffield Road, Woodley.
REASON FOR APPEAL:	Appeal against refusal of prior approval for the erection of an 8 metre high telecommunications pole with 3 directional antennae and equipment cabinet.

LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY REFERENCE : TL/2001/2871

DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORT AND THE REGIONS REFERENCE : APP/X0360/A/01/1068471

1.0 LOCATION AND SITE DESCRIPTION

1.01 The appeal site is located to the north of Duffield Road, on the edge of a residential area within the Identified Settlement of Woodley. The proposed site is situated to the south of the railway line, with residential properties surrounding it on the other sides. A site location plan at scale 1:1250 is contained in Appendix 1.

2.0 RELEVANT PLANNING HISTORY

2.01 On 5 January 2001 the application which is currently the subject of this appeal was refused for the following reasons:

1. ***The proposal is unacceptable in view of its proximity to residential properties.***

3.0 POLICY BACKGROUND

3.01 The development plan for the area comprises of the Berkshire Structure Plan and the Loddon Area Local Plan. There is also an emerging district wide Local Plan.

3.02 The Berkshire Structure Plan (1991-2006) was adopted on 4th November 1995 and is the statutory Structure Plan for the area.

3.03 ***TC1*** - Assessment of proposals for telecommunications development (See appendix 2) is relevant in consideration of this appeal.

3.04 The Loddon Area Local Plan (LALP) was adopted on 5th May 1995 and is the statutory local plan for the area in which the site is situated. The Planning and Transportation Committee, at their meeting on 21st November 1996, resolved to "re-affirm the decisions of this Committee and the Council in relation to the current adopted local plans and to note that they will continue to carry weight as the most up to date

adopted policies, except in relation to housing provision". This plan does not contain any policies relating specifically to telecommunications development.

3.05 The emerging local plan is the Wokingham District Local Plan Deposit Draft (WDLPDD). Berkshire County Council issued a statement of general conformity with the structure plan in May 1997 and the plan was placed on deposit between 21 October and 2 December 1997. It has formed the basis for development control decisions since 21 October 1997. The Inspector's report on the local plan inquiry is not expected until late 2001 (with the exception of policy WSM1).

3.06 ***WIC14*** - *Assessment of proposals for telecommunications development,* (See appendix 3) is relevant in consideration of this appeal.

4.0 THE COUNCIL'S CASE

4.01 It is considered that there are two main issues with regard to the proposed siting of the telecommunications equipment.

- siting
- proximity to residential properties

4.02 Siting

The DETR Circular 'Planning for Telecommunications' (04/99) states that the Government attaches considerable importance to keeping to a minimum the number of radio masts and telecommunications masts, and sites for such installations. Policy is to encourage mast and site sharing where that is appropriate. The policy goes on to explain that good use should be made of existing buildings and other structures for the siting of antennas. Policy TC1 of the Berkshire Structure Plan supports this advice and states that in the case of radio antennae and masts the possibility of erecting antennae on an existing building or other structure should be investigated.

4.03 Planning guidance on telecommunications advises Local Planning Authorities that they may reasonably expect applicants to show evidence that they have explored the possibility of erecting antennas on an existing mast, building or other structure.

4.04 The circular advises that if evidence regarding the consideration of such alternative sites is not considered satisfactory, the Planning Authority, or Secretary of State on Appeal may be justified in refusing prior approval or planning permission for the development.

4.05 The application for the prior approval determination was not accompanied by any such document giving details of any alternative structures that had been investigated.

Proximity to dwellings

4.06 Paragraph 12 of DETR Circular 04/99 Policy establishes that the siting of telecommunications equipment in relation to residential properties is a relevant consideration. WIC14 of the Wokingham District Local Plan (Deposit Draft) states that the Council in will exercise its option to require prior approval in areas within 200 metres of 'any building regularly used by people.' This does not mean that any such proposals will automatically be refused on such grounds. Wokingham District Council often approves masts located less than 200 m away from buildings regularly used by people. However, because of the level of public interest in telecommunications development, a distance of 200m from buildings regularly used by the public has been set as benchmark within which the Local Planning Authority will take special regard of the circumstances of the case.

4.07 In this case the equipment would be sited approximately 20 metres from the nearest dwelling and 11 metres from the boundary with its garden, and there is considerable public concern regarding the proposals as demonstrated by the thirty-two letters of objection and the petition with 81 signatures that have been received from local residents.

4.08 In the light of such concerns, if the planning process is to retain the trust and confidence of the public, the proposed mast should be treated as being unacceptable due to its proximity to residential properties.

4.09 The Local Planning Authority tries to facilitate telecommunications development in a manner that is acceptable to the local population. It has achieved this by having a relaxed approach to mono-pole masts in the countryside, provided that adequate landscaping of any compound is provided. This is a reasonable way to achieve comprehensive mobile telecommunications in the District, as the area of Wokingham District typically comprises islands of urban development in a sea of surrounding countryside.

4.10 It is submitted that this Council's approach is worthy of support, as its decisions have effectively nullified telecommunication development as a 'hot' political issue. The telecommunication companies have been able to develop their network (about half of all such applications are approved) whilst local residents see the local authority democratically listening to their views, and refusing proposals which are totally unacceptable to the local community.

4.11 This appeal case is an example of a proposal which is totally unacceptable to the local community. This is illustrated by the high level of local opposition to the appeal development.

4.12 To the north of the appeal site lies a railway line and countryside. In practice, the Local Planning Authority has relaxed its attitude to telecommunication masts in the countryside in order to avoid the need for sites such as the one the subject of this appeal. Therefore, in principle, such a countryside location as to the north of the appeal site is likely to be viewed favourably by the Local Planning Authority as an acceptable alternative site.

5.00 CONCLUSION

5.01 In conclusion, it is submitted that the proposed mast is unacceptable due to its proximity to residential properties. The proposed location of the mast 20 metres away from the closest dwelling has resulted in a significant level of public concern and alarm. Acceptable alternative sites could be found in the countryside to the north of the appeal site.

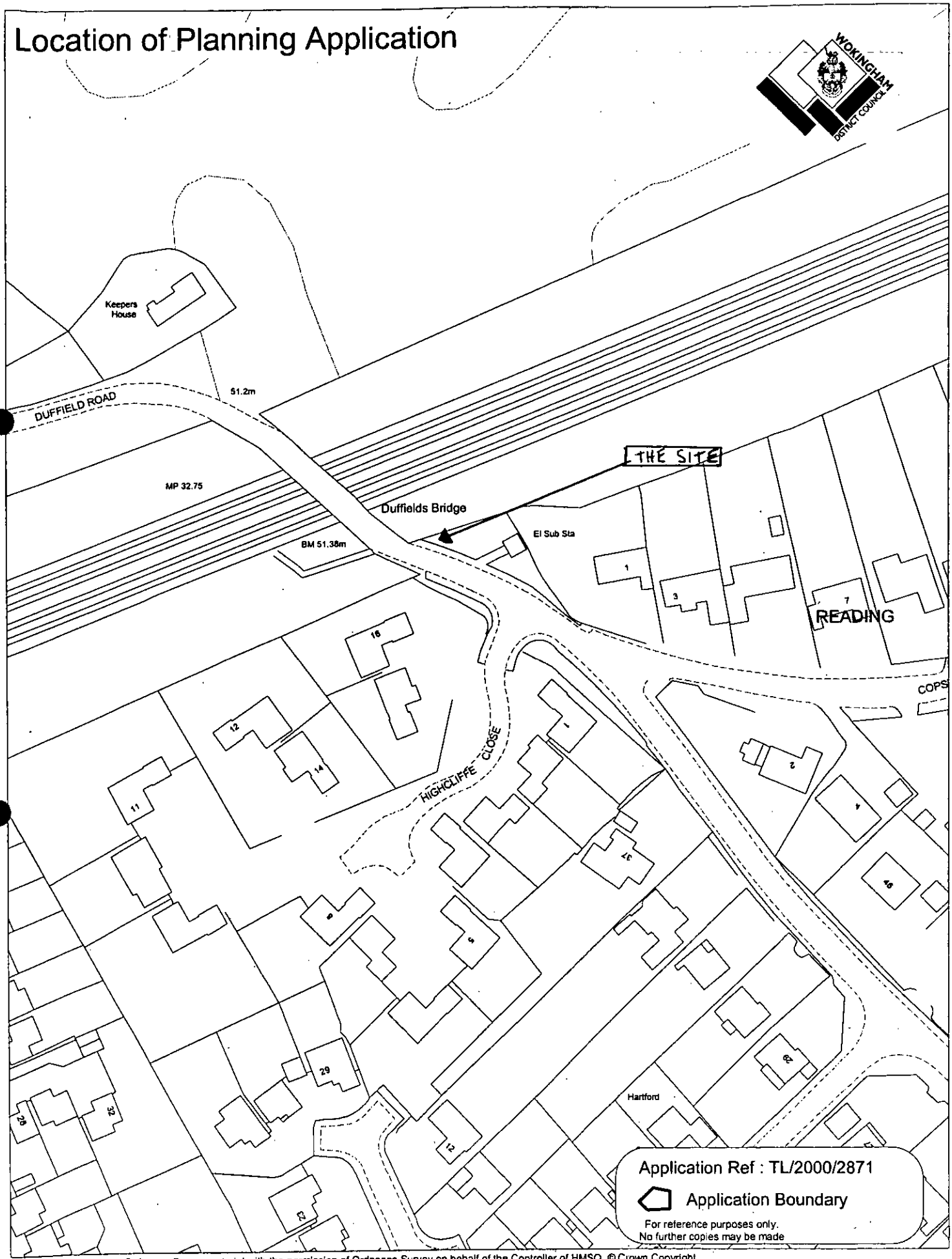
5.02 As such, the proposed telecommunications mast and associated equipment cabinet is contrary to Policy TC1 of the Berkshire Structure Plan and policy WIC14 of the Wokingham District Local Plan (Deposit Draft).

5.03 The Local Planning Authority's approach to such development, which largely meets the industries aspirations whilst genuinely taking into account the concerns of local residents is a model approach which is worthy of support and emulation. If the community's voice is disregarded in cases such as this, then the democratic basis of the planning appeals system would be increasingly questioned.

5.04 For the above reasons, the Inspector is respectfully requested to dismiss this appeal.

Appendix 1

Location of Planning Application



This map is based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of HMSO. © Crown Copyright.
Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings.Wokingham District Council Licence LA086134

Development Control Section, Environmental Services, Wokingham District Council.

28 August 2001

Scale: 1 : 1250

N W E S

Appendix 2



BERKSHIRE STRUCTURE PLAN 1991-2006

Incorporating Alterations adopted in August 1997





Babtie

11 TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND RENEWABLE ENERGY

11.1 This chapter deals with two subject areas, telecommunications and renewable energy, which are covered in Government guidance contained in Planning Policy Guidance Notes 8 'Telecommunications' and 22 'Renewable Energy'.

11.2 PPG8 sets out the benefits of telecommunications and advises that the Government's general policy is 'to facilitate the growth of new and existing systems' while maintaining commitment to environmental objectives. It provides guidance on the form and particular requirements of telecommunications development, and Policy TC1 below takes account of the growth and characteristics of modern telecommunications.

11.3 The benefits of providing energy from renewable sources are emphasised in Government advice (PPG22). In Chapter 3 of this Plan, the importance of resource conservation is stressed, being a key element of a sustainable approach to development. Renewable energy sources play an important role in conserving non-renewable resources and reducing harm to the global environment.

Telecommunications Development

11.4 Telecommunications developments include radio relay stations, base stations, antennas and masts. The technology continues to develop, and can generate environmental benefits; for instance, they can help to reduce the need to travel, both in terms of journeys to work and the transfer of information. However, telecommunications equipment can itself be environmentally intrusive, especially if it is poorly sited.

11.5 A balance will be sought between the growth of telecommunications developments and their impact on the environment. The aim is to respond positively to telecommunications development proposals, in line with government guidance, whilst taking account of technical considerations, other policies designed to preserve and enhance the environment, and the environmental benefits that may accrue.

Assessment of Proposals for Telecommunications Development

Policy TC1 **Planning permission will normally be granted for telecommunication development. Where there is potential conflict with environmental objectives telecommunications development will be allowed provided:**

i) it is sited and designed so as not to result in significant adverse visual impact, subject to operational and technical requirements;

ii) there are no satisfactory alternative sites for telecommunications available;

iii) there is no reasonable possibility of sharing existing facilities; and

iv) in the case of radio antenna and masts there is no reasonable possibility of erecting antennae on an existing building or other structure.

11.6 In considering the acceptability of a proposal in relation to these criteria, the following factors will be relevant:

- the need to protect the best and most sensitive environments, in particular within the North Wessex Downs AONB and Areas of Special Landscape Importance;
- the significance of the proposed development as part of a national network, and the implications for subsequent network development;
- the need to minimise visual impact.

Renewable Energy

11.7 Renewable energy refers to those "energy flows that occur naturally and repeatedly in the environment - from the sun, wind and oceans, and from plants and the fall of water. It also refers to energy available in wastes and from within the earth itself" (ETSU[1]). Renewable energy can be derived from schemes involving : wind power; landfill gas; hydro-electric power; energy from crops and forestry; solar; and waste combustion.

11.8 There are many advantages to using these renewable energy sources, since for the most part the energy generated causes no harmful gaseous emissions. In addition, using renewable energy can assist in reducing the demand for fossil fuels such as coal, gas and oil, and thereby reduce the potential for pollution. For example, passive solar gain in residential developments can, through good design and layout, reduce conventional fuel demand by 12%.

11.9 For these reasons renewable energy is being given increasingly serious consideration as an alternative energy source, with Government policy encouraging such schemes, providing they are economically attractive and environmentally acceptable. This encouragement includes the Non-Fossil Fuel Obligation (NFFO) introduced by the 1989 Electricity Act. The NFFO requires regional electricity companies to purchase a proportion of their electricity from non-fossil fuel sources.

11.10 Given the environmental constraints in Berkshire, the opportunities for developing some renewable energy schemes may well be limited. For example, the physical development associated with renewable energy schemes such as wind farms and waste to energy processes have a potentially serious environmental impact. Therefore a balance has to be achieved between the benefits of harnessing renewable energy and the impact on the Berkshire environment.

---

1 ETSU manage the Government's new and renewable energy programme on behalf of the Department of Trade and Industry

Appendix 3



Wokingham District Local Plan
Deposit Draft

With Proposed Amendments Highlighted

February 2000

- **Proposed Amendments April 1999**
- **Additional Proposed Amendments September 1999**
- **Proposed Transport Amendments February 2000**

UTILITIES INFRASTRUCTURE

11.28 Public utility services include infrastructure works for electricity, gas, water supply, sewerage and telecommunications services. All these services are provided by private sector companies and the Council has a limited control over their activities. Development for operational needs will generally be supported. The local planning authority has also liaised with services providers in respect of the plan's policies that could help service provision.

POLICY WIC13: PUBLIC UTILITIES

PROPOSALS FOR DEVELOPMENT REQUIRED FOR THE OPERATIONAL NEEDS OF PUBLIC UTILITIES WILL BE SUPPORTED SUBJECT TO THEIR ACCEPTABILITY ON ENVIRONMENTAL AND AMENITY GROUNDS IN ACCORDANCE WITH OTHER RELEVANT POLICIES AND PROVISIONS OF THE PLAN. IN CONSIDERING PROPOSALS THE COUNCIL WILL TAKE INTO ACCOUNT EXISTING LEVELS OF INFRASTRUCTURE, TECHNICAL AND OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS *AND* **(PA 11/9)** THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR SHARING FACILITIES ~~AND APPROPRIATE PHASING OF DEVELOPMENT~~. **(PA 11/9)**

Implementation: Through the development control process.

Monitoring: Planning applications determined.

Telecommunications

11.29 PPG 8 *Telecommunications* states that local planning authorities should respond positively to telecommunications development proposals. However where possible existing masts and equipment should be used in order to avoid impact on amenities.

11.30 Telecommunications are being promoted as being important and therefore interference as a result of development must be minimised. Large structures can result in physical obstruction, or reflection, of above ground signals and therefore interference to existing networks can be a material consideration in determining a planning application.

11.31 On major new developments developers will be encouraged to allow for the future telecommunications needs of occupants and make provision for necessary equipment. Communal provision will be expected on larger developments to reduce the proliferation of aerials. In addition operators will be encouraged to remove telecommunications structures that have become redundant.

POLICY WIC14: ASSESSMENT OF PROPOSALS FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS DEVELOPMENT

PLANNING PERMISSION WILL BE GRANTED FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROVIDED THAT IT IS IN ACCORDANCE WITH POLICY TC1 OF THE BERKSHIRE STRUCTURE PLAN 1991 – 2006. ~~IN ADDITION THE COUNCIL WILL CONSIDER 'PRIOR NOTIFICATION' SUBMISSIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH POLICY WOS3~~ **(PA 11/10)** AND OTHER RELEVANT POLICIES AND PROVISIONS OF THIS PLAN. THE COUNCIL WILL ALSO SEEK TO SECURE THE REMOVAL OF ANY TELECOMMUNICATIONS APPARATUS THAT IS NO LONGER REQUIRED FOR ITS ORIGINAL PURPOSE.

BEFORE PERMISSION IS GRANTED, APPLICANTS WILL BE REQUIRED TO SHOW THAT NO ALTERNATIVE LESS VISUALLY INTRUSIVE SITE IS AVAILABLE OR TECHNICALLY FEASIBLE. CONDITIONS MAY BE IMPOSED TO REQUIRE PROVISION OF A SUITABLE SCREEN TO MITIGATE THE VISUAL IMPACT OF THE APPARATUS.

Cont.

THE COUNCIL WILL EXERCISE ITS OPTION TO REQUIRE PRIOR APPROVAL IN AREA DESIGNATED IN THIS PLAN AS BEING ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE, WITHIN 20 METRES OF ANY BUILDING REGULARLY USED BY PEOPLE AND IN OPEN COUNTRYSIDE WHERE IT WOULD APPEAR ABOVE THE SKYLINE. **(PA 11/11)**

Implementation: Through the development control process.

Monitoring: Planning applications and prior notifications determined.

11.31A FOR THE PURPOSES OF POLICY WIC 14 THE AREAS WHICH ARE DESIGNATED AS BEING ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE ARE AREAS OF SPECIAL LANDSCAPE IMPORTANCE, THE THAMES VALLEY, SITES OF URBAN LANDSCAPE VALUE, LOCAL NATURE RESERVES, WILDLIFE HERITAGE SITES, THE GREEN BELT, CONSERVATION AREAS, AREAS OF SPECIAL CHARACTER, HISTORIC PARKS AND GARDENS, LISTED BUILDINGS, ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES, ANCIENT MONUMENTS, GREENWAYS, GREEN ROUTES AND AREAS WHICH FORM THE SETTING OF THESE AREAS. **(PA 11/12)**

Recycling

11.32 Recycling and Sustainable Development are important issues and the Government recognises that the planning system has a role to play in weighing the interests of economic development and environmental protection. The Council has a recycling plan (approved by the Department of the Environment in 1992). It aims to achieve a 25% recycling target of all household waste generated in this District by the year 2000. The County Council adopted a *Waste Management Plan for Berkshire* in 1995. Its strategy is based on waste minimisation, re-use and recycling, and the treatment of waste to produce useful products. In addition to this the County Council has produced a *Waste Local Plan*, which is a land use plan setting out policies and proposals for new waste facilities that seek to ensure minimal harm to the environment and the public. The Berkshire Structure Plan 1991 - 2006 contains a policy that seeks provision of recycling facilities on site or a contribution to them elsewhere as is appropriate to the development proposed. Development proposals will be expected to take account of recycling policies contained within the Berkshire Structure Plan 1991 - 2006 and the Waste Local Plan.

WATER AND SEWERAGE

Water Quality

11.33 The quality of water is an increasingly important area of concern. Deteriorating water quality can affect the supply of water for domestic, industrial and agricultural uses and general amenity. The Council should therefore restrict development that would threaten surface and ground water quality. The Environment Agency has published ground water vulnerability maps, which identify areas requiring protection from potentially polluting activities.

POLICY WIC15: SURFACE AND GROUND WATER PROTECTION

THE COUNCIL WILL (FOLLOWING CONSULTATION WITH THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY) RESIST DEVELOPMENT THAT COULD ADVERSELY AFFECT THE QUALITY OF SURFACE AND GROUND WATER AS A RESULT OF THE NATURE OF SURFACE OR WASTE WATER DISCHARGE, OR GIVE RISE TO POLLUTION PROBLEMS AS A RESULT OF DISTURBANCE TO CONTAMINATED LAND.

Implementation: Through development control process and in consultation with the Environment Agency.

Monitoring: Planning applications determined.

HIGHWAYS CONSULTATION SHEET

From: Joss Miller **Date:** 01 December 2000

Application Number: TL/2000/2871

Proposal: Proposed erection of 8 metre high telecommunications pole with 3 directional antennae and equipement cabinet.

Parish: WOODLEY TOWN

Site Address:
Land Adjoining Duffields Bridge, Duffield Road, Woodley, Reading.

Applicant:
Orange P C S Ltd C/O Patrick Farfan Associates Ltd.

Your observations are required in respect of this application within **7 days** of the above date.

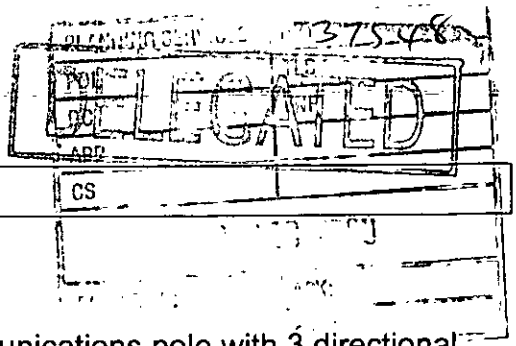
✓ below as applicable;

1) ☐ Recommend refusal for the reason(s) **stated below**;
2) ☐ Recommend approval but with condition(s) & reason(s) **stated below**;
3) ☑ Recommend approval with **no** condition(s) or reason(s).

Signed: _____ **Print name:** Adam Goggins 6/12/00

FROM: Joss Miller

DATE: 01 December 2000



WOODLEY TOWN CONSULTATION SHEET

Application Number: TL/2000/2871

Proposal: Proposed erection of 8 metre high telecommunications pole with 3 directional antennae and equipement cabinet..

Site Address: Land Adjoining Duffields Bridge, Duffield Road, Woodley, Reading.

Applicant: Orange P C S Ltd C/O Patrick Farfan Associates Ltd.

Your observations are required in respect of this application **by 25/12/2000** .

This plan had been received only the day before the meeting of the Plans Committee and therefore time had not allowed for notification to be sent to all neighbours.

However, Mr. Ayling attended the meeting on behalf of residents in Copse Mead and Highcliffe Close and reiterated concerns made in respect of the previous application TL/2000/0493.

The committee agreed that the situation had not changed and considered that the same reasons for the refusal of the previous application were still appropriate to this current proposal.

SIGNED: Shirley Keenan. DATE: 7.12.00.

Clerk To Woodley Parish/Town Council.

PLANNING SERVICES | HPT 37625
POL | TLS
DC | [illegible]
APP |
COPIES TO: | ACK:
FILE:

WOKINGHAM DISTRICT COUNCIL

MEMORANDUM

From: Joanne Ellis
Environmental Health

My Ref: JPE/duffield

To: Joss Miller
Planning

Your Ref: TL/2000/2871

Date. 08 December 2000

PROPOSED: ERECTION OF AN 8 METRE HIGH TELECOMMUNICATIONS POLE WITH 3 DIRECTIONAL ANTENNAE AND EQUIPMENT CABIN

LOCATION: LAND ADJOINING DUFFIELDS ROAD, WOODLEY

These proposals have been evaluated and I have no environmental health objections to planning consent but have the following comments to make in relation to this proposal:

There have been questions raised as to the possibility of adverse health effects from electromagnetic radiation from telecommunication base stations and their positioning in relation to residential development and, in particular schools.

The Chartered Institute of Environmental Healths current policy states that;

(a) despite a growing body of research, there is currently no convincing evidence that environmental exposure to electromagnetic fields (emf) generated by the transmission of electricity or mobile telephony is harmful to human health, including that of children;
(b) that there is no justification on health grounds for restricting the public use of land other than immediately around power and mobile telecommunications installations. Conversely, there is no justification for restricting the siting of such installations in proximity to other land uses:
(c) that public concerns about the effects of electromagnetic fields while in our current state of knowledge apparently without foundation, should nonetheless be recognised as genuine.
(d) The full effects of emfs on humans may not yet be realised and though it can never be conclusive, there remains a need for continuing, properly funded, independent research into the nature, extent and relevance of those effects and the consequent adequacy of prevailing exposure guidelines.

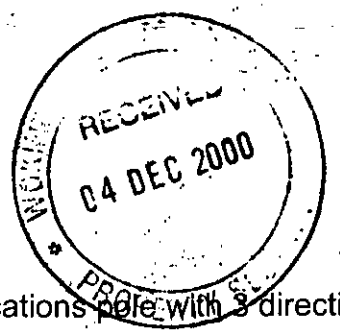
Should you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me.



Joanne Ellis

~~For~~ From:
Property Dept

To: ~~For~~: Joss Miller



Date: 01 December 2000

Application Number: TL/2000/2871

Proposal: Proposed erection of 8 metre high telecommunications pole with 3 directional antennae and equipement cabinet..

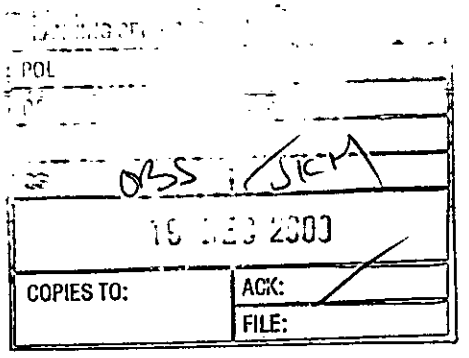
Site Address:
Land Adjoining Duffields Bridge, Duffield Road, Woodley, Reading.

Applicant:
Orange P C S Ltd C/O Patrick Farfan Associates Ltd.

Your observations are required in respect of this application within **7 days** of the above date.

This section has no objection to the above proposal.

Sarah Hunter
For Head of Property section.



8 Highcliffe Close
Woodley
Reading
Berkshire
RG5 4RE

17th December, 2000

Mr J Miller
Environmental Services Department
Planning Services
P.O. Box 157
Wokingham District Council
Shute End
Wokingham
RG40 1WR

Dear Mr Miller,

Planning Application TL/2000/2871

I am writing to object to the proposal to erect an Orange mobile phone mast near the railway bridge on Duffield Road. I am disappointed that Orange should continue to seek planning approval when a previous application in February 2000 was rejected by the Council. I would like to draw your attention to three objections to the proposed development:

- Mobile phone coverage in the area is already adequate with no need for an extra base station
- Granting planning permission for such a site would conflict with the environmental policy for the area
- Most important, increasing radiation at this location could pose a health risk to children.

These objections I covered in detail in my earlier letter of 25 February 2000 which I attach for your information, and in addition I would like to draw your attention to the recent development on the health risks posed by mobile phone technology. On December 8th 2000, the **Department of Health** ordered new research into any health risks arising from the use of mobile phones. The £7 million project, jointly funded by the Government and the UK's telecommunications industry, will offer a definitive view of the safety of 'hands-free kits' and the biological effects of radio waves on children. This is in addition to the requirement to now include a health warning leaflet with mobile phones.

I would like to emphasize that in Highcliffe Close there are over 20 young children, two of them my own, and living within 100 or so metres (with other houses even closer) of a base station that constantly emits 20 to 40 times the radiation of a mobile phone is cause for concern.

As I noted in my earlier letter I believe the main purpose of this site is to improve phone coverage for users on the trains travelling in the Sonning Cutting. The tactic by Orange appears

to be a very large company with many resources seeking to wear down the local community and in this case not prepared to accept the views of our community.

* * *

I therefore struggle to understand why our children should be placed at risk and the amenity of our environment harmed by a radiating mast that provides no or very limited benefits to the residents of Woodley.

I hope you will take these considerations into account when reaching your decision.

Yours sincerely

N. Drakeford-Lewis

N Drakeford-Lewis

cc: Mrs Anne Keenan, Community and Members Services Officer
Woodley Town Council, Woodford Park, Haddon Drive
Woodley, Berkshire, RG5 4LY

8 Highcliffe Close
Woodley
Reading
Berkshire RG5 4RE

25 February 2000

Wokingham District Council
Shute End
Wokingham
Berkshire RG40 1WR

Attention: J. Miller

Dear Sir,

Planning Application TL/2000/0493

I am writing to object to the proposal to site an Orange mobile phone base station beside the railway bridge on Duffield Road. As a consultant who provides services to the mobile telecom industry, I am aware of developments in the industry and I have been able to discuss the health and safety concerns with industry technical insiders. I would like to draw your attention to three objections to the proposed development:

- Mobile phone coverage in the area is already adequate with no need for the extra base station.
- Granting planning permission for such a site would conflict with the environmental policy for the area.
- Most important, increasing radiation at this location could pose a health risk to children.

No Need to Improve Mobile Phone Coverage

I have tested the Orange mobile phone coverage in my own house and around the planned cell site. The coverage is more than acceptable for making calls, as Orange's website confirms. For postcode RG5 4++ "high quality outdoor coverage" is provided. I enclose the printout from the website.

The primary purpose of the proposed "microcell" site (typically used to provide coverage over a short distance) appears to be to remove a coverage black spot that causes calls to be dropped on trains travelling in the railway cutting. (This will have been noted by Orange employees who regularly travel between offices in Bristol and London.) My field test confirmed that there is a black spot, but there are alternative technical solutions to the problem for Orange (although at probably higher cost), namely using directional antenna located trackside and further away from homes, or by "leaky" feeder cables often used in tunnels.

Environmental Impact

This area of Woodley is attractive, with trees covered by protective orders; in my road even external TV aerials are prohibited. I find it difficult to reconcile this concern for the environment with the intention to erect a high mast. The benefits to the community of the rent that I am sure Orange is prepared to pay for this site cannot compensate for the negatives.

Increased Health Risk

Adverse publicity has surrounded radiation from mobile phones and mobile phone base stations. The strongest evidence has been empirical: people have developed tumours, the cause of which is believed to be linked to mobile phones. As with any new development, lack of statistical data enables interested parties to refute the emotional concerns. The Government and the National Radiological Protection Board has commissioned an independent group to investigate the issue, and will be reporting later this year.

Living in Highcliffe Close are more than 20 young children, two of them my own. Living within 100 or so metres (other houses are even closer) of a base station that constantly emits 20 to 40 times the radiation of a mobile phone is obviously cause for concern. Our concern is heightened by having to put up with increased radiation from the electricity sub-station and a Railtrack VHF transmitting station already.

Interestingly, Oxfordshire County Council is not allowing mobile phone base stations within 200 metres of schools because of its concern for children. (I enclose recent press comment for your information).

* * *

I therefore struggle to understand why our children should be placed at risk and the amenity of our environment harmed by a radiating mast that provides no or very limited benefit to the residents of Woodley.

I hope you will take these considerations into account in reaching your decision.

Yours faithfully,

Nigel Drakeford-Lewis

cc: Mrs. Anne Keenan, Community and Members Services Officer
Woodley Town Council, Woodford Park, Haddon Drive
Woodley, Berkshire RG5 4LY

Key high quality outdoor coverage

High quality outdoor coverage is defined as postcode sectors where coverage is of good quality.

variable quality outdoor coverage

Variable quality outdoor coverage is defined as as postcode sectors which contain some areas where difficulties may be experienced.

To see a map, click on one of the postcode sectors listed below.

1 postcode sectors

RG5 4 high quality outdoor coverage

Simply enter the required postcode district or sector in the form and press the **Search** button.

search again

The following example is a postcode district. **BS1**

The following example is a postcode sector. **BS12 4**

Postcode district/sector: [ ]

[Search] [Reset]

This information should be used in conjunction with the service area maps published by Orange.
The information it contains is intended to provide a guide only, and Orange will regularly update all coverage information to reflect the continuous development and expansion of the network.

Points to Note - In areas where high quality outdoor coverage is indicated, it is usually possible to make and receive calls within buildings. However, this is dependent on the construction of the building. Please also note that the service areas are based on computer prediction. Whilst we have endeavoured to make this guide as accurate as possible, as at the date of publication the information provided is not a guarantee of service availability.

All products using radio technology, including TV and car radios, can be affected by local physical conditions which may interfere with radio signals. As with other mobile phone services, Orange can be affected in tunnels, dips, cuttings and wooded areas. In some cases, use of your Orange phone will be impared inside buildings. Therefore, even in high quality service areas, additional sites might be planned to improve the level of in-building coverage in known problem areas.

coverage

According to an independent snapshot survey commissioned by Oftel, Orange has been shown to outperform all the other UK mobile phone networks.

Orange is the largest and fastest-growing digital mobile phone network in the UK, with over 5,300 sites (as at 6 April 1999), with 10,000 sites targeted by 2001.

Orange came top for best call success rate, lowest dropped call rates and highest quality service, in a survey commissioned by Oftel.



MapData AA (c)

a note about coverage

Click on the map which zooms into UK coverage in greater detail

Orange performs

Find out why Orange is the network that performs best...

international roaming

With a dual band phone, you can currently roam in over 85 countries with more planned throughout 1999

Network Performance Promise

Find out about the new Network Performance Promise from Orange...

investing in coverage

Find out why Orange is investing an additional £800 million in its coverage

postcode check

Check your area for coverage information

autoroute overlay

Download the latest coverage overlays

07/12/99 UK: MAST 'AN UGLY BLACKPOOL TOWER' CLAIM.
PEOPLE living in a Teesside village are the latest to complain about plans to put up a telecommunications mast.

Mobile telephone company One 2 One has applied to site a 25-metre mast in Stainton, near Middlesbrough.

But, villagers are against the proposal and say the mast will be an uglier version of Blackpool Tower.

Ward councillor Maelor Williams, also chairman of Stainton and Thornton Parish Council, said a letter of protest has been sent to Middlesbrough council's planning department.

"This mast is much bigger than other ones and, after seeing the plans, it looks like a miniature and more uglier version of Blackpool Tower," he said.

"I can't comment on any possible health risks, because not enough is known about it, but it is certainly going to be a big eyesore.

"It will be far too close to the private housing in Stainton and council house properties in Hemlington." The site was chosen to provide good coverage for south Middlesbrough.

One 2 One says it is satisfied mobile base stations operate within the guidelines and do not present a health risk.

If planning permission is granted, construction will be completed within eight weeks of work starting.
(c) North of England Newspapers, 1999.
NORTHERN ECHO 07/12/1999 P6

15/10/99 UK: OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL MOBILE PHONE BASE DECISION.
Oxfordshire County Council has decided not to allow mobile phone base stations at school or council-owned sites within 200 metres of school boundaries, pending further research into their safety. The council's operation sub-committee made the ruling last week after claims by scientists that guidelines set by the National Radiological Protection Board (NRPB), which advises the Government on radiation matters, do not take into account the low level non-thermal emissions which may cause illness in children. The council also decided that maximum emission levels at stations on other council-owned sites should be lower than those set by the NRPB.
PLANNING 15/10/1999 P3

01/10/99 UK: MASTS PLAN DEALT BLOW.
THE future siting of mobile phone masts in town centres could be influenced following a decision by a North-East council to reject two applications from phone company Orange.
Stockton Borough Council's planning committee last night refused permission to allow the two antennae at two sites in Yarm after hearing concerns from a delegation of residents worried over health risks allegedly caused by radio waves.

In refusing permission, the council broke with Government planning guidelines on allowing base stations, masts and aerials. The decision also was contrary to council planning officers' advice.
Only in exceptional circumstances have councils refused transmissions sites. Campaigners hope the decision could set a precedent if Orange appeals against the refusal - and loses.
The two sites at Yarm are at Everingham Road and Glaisdale Road. Protestors claimed the aerials should be banned because of alleged health risks to children. The Everingham road site is close to Layfield Primary School.
David Hellier, of Orange, said there was no scientific proof low level radio waves caused anything but a slight risk of heat damage, and only then if people stood close to them. Orange would consider whether to appeal or pull out of the site altogether.
(c) North of England Newspapers, 1999.
NORTHERN ECHO 01/10/1999 P16

23/09/99 UK: BRITAIN SHOULD CUT MOBILE TELEPHONE EMISSIONS, SAY MPS.
By Robert Uhlig, Technology Correspondent.
MOBILE telephones and cellphone masts do not pose a threat to health, an all-party committee of MPs said yesterday.
But the Commons science and technology select committee recommended in a report that the Government should adopt European Union guidelines on emissions from the telephones to bring Britain into line with the rest of Europe.
Dr Michael Clark, chairman of the committee, said all mobile telephones currently on sale in Britain emitted radiation at a level far below EU guidelines but added that the lower figures would help to reassure the public.
"Validated scientific evidence supports the conclusion that neither mobile phones nor their associated base stations present a health hazard," Dr Clark said.
"Nevertheless, we have recommended that the Government should adopt the lower guideline levels proposed by the International Commission on Non-Ionising Radiation Protection and adopted by the EU Health Council earlier this year, as a precautionary measure."
The European guidelines allow microwave emissions from mobile telephones only a fifth as high as current British regulations set by the National Radiological Protection Board.
Dr Clark said there was no evidence of any harmful effects from mobile telephone masts because they were fenced off or placed on the top of buildings, outside the range within which they might cause harm to passers-by.
Ian Taylor, a member of the committee, added: "The public is perversely panicking about the dangers of masts. They will call their MP on their mobile phones to complain about masts."
Mr Taylor said the committee had questioned in its report the effectiveness of mobile telephone shields which purported to reduce absorption of radiation. He said: "The NRPB told us that these devices will reduce the ability of the phone to communicate with the base station and so the phone will increase the transmission power, resulting in the same level of exposure."
Gerard Hyland, a theoretical physicist at the University of Warwick, has maintained that the 217 Hertz pulsed signal from digital mobile telephones is in the range of brain alpha waves and can have an adverse reaction on neurological function.
Considerable controversy surrounds Dr Hyland's claims and no other scientist has been able to replicate experiments to support his claims.
According to the report, some studies have linked radiation from mobiles with

cancer and others have found anecdotal evidence of cellphones causing symptoms such as headaches, nausea, sleep problems and memory loss.
(c) Telegraph Group Limited, London, 1999.
DAILY TELEGRAPH 23/09/1999 P9

04/08/99 UK: PROTEST BLOCKS PHONE MAST - MUMS FEARED CANCER OVER PLAN FOR A 50FT POLE NEXT TO SCHOOL.
PARENTS have won a landmark victory against the building of a mobile phone mast which they fear could cause cancer.
Vodaphone was erecting a 50ft metal pole next door to St Wilfred's Primary School in Newton Heath, on land belonging to Newton Heath Cricket Club.
But parents at the school, who had not been informed before work began, demanded a meeting with bosses of the mobile phone firm.
Vodaphone has now agreed to suspend work until safety tests are carried out.
Paula Norton, who has 10-year-old twin girls at the school and is a member of Newton Heath Residents' Committee which is behind the campaign, said: "We are happy someone from Vodaphone came and listened to us.
"But even he didn't seem to know exactly what the health and safety risks were.
"We feel a bit better now work has been called off because the mast should have gone up this week. This gives us a bit more time to stop it for good.
"They have told us that if we come up with another site they might consider it, but we don't want it in Newton Heath at all." Campaigners have been given the choice of having tests carried out by an independent body or by Vodaphone itself.
A "temporary mast" will be erected at the site to measure radiation.
Telecoms base stations have already been banned in other countries and only weeks ago education secretary David Blunkett ordered an inquiry into the siting of the masts near schools amid fears they could cause cancer.
Alasdair Philips, director of industry watchdog Powerwatch, welcomed the decision. He said: "We believe that a precautionary approach needs to be taken, these masts should be kept away from houses and schools."
A spokesman for Vodaphone confirmed that parent-pressure had forced the company to backdown.
She added: "We need to provide an improved service for our customers in the Newton Heath area and that means putting up a mast. We want to make it clear that the service we provide operates well within government guidelines.
"It is unusual for us to take a step like this and stall work, but we are now in discussions to decide how best further tests can be carried out.
"At the end of the day we want to work with the local community not against it."
A 1,000-name petition against the Vodaphone mast was handed to Manchester MP Tony Lloyd who is backing the campaign.
Labour councillor Damien O'Connor has also asked for an "immediate inquiry" into why residents were not told about the plans before work began.
MANCHESTER EVENING NEWS 04/08/1999

02/08/99 UK: PHONE MAST VICTORY FOR SCHOOL PARENTS - `LANDMARK' WIN AS VODAPHONE AGREES TO HOLD NEW TESTS OVER CANCER FEARS.
By SOPHIE TWEEDALE.
PARENTS have won a landmark victory against the building of a mobile phone mast which they fear could cause cancer.
Vodaphone was erecting a 50ft metal pole next door to St Wilfred's Primary School in Newton Heath, on land belonging to Newton Heath Cricket Club.
But parents at the school, who had not been informed before work began, demanded

a meeting with bosses of the mobile phone firm.
Vodaphone has now agreed to suspend work until safety tests are carried out.
Paula Norton, a mum of 10-year-old twin girls at the school and member of Newton Heath Residents' Committee which is behind the campaign, said: "We are happy someone from Vodaphone came and listened to us, but even he didn't seem to know exactly what the health and safety risks were.
"We feel a bit better now work has been called off because the mast should have gone up this week. This gives us a bit more time to stop it for good.
"They have told us that if we come up with another site they might consider it, but we just don't want it in Newton Heath at all."
Campaigners have been given the choice of having tests carried out by an independent body or by Vodaphone itself. A "temporary mast" will be erected at the site to measure radiation.
Telecoms base stations have already been banned in other countries and just weeks ago education secretary David Blunkett ordered an inquiry into the siting of the masts near to schools amid fears they could cause cancer.
Alasdair Philips, director of industry watchdog Powerwatch, welcomed the decision. He said: "We believe that a precautionary approach needs to be taken, these masts should be kept away from houses and schools."
A spokeswoman for Vodaphone confirmed that parent-pressure had forced the company to backdown.
She added: "We need to provide an improved service for our customers in the Newton Heath area and that means putting up a mast. We want to make it clear that the service we provide operates well within government guidelines.
"It is unusual for us to take a step like this and stall work, but we are now in discussions to decide how best further tests can be carried out.
"At the end of the day we want to work with the local community not against it."
A 1000-name petition against the Vodaphone mast was yesterday () handed to Manchester MP Tony Lloyd who is backing the campaign. Labour councillor Damien O'Connor has also asked for an "immediate inquiry" into why residents were not told about the plans before work began.
MANCHESTER EVENING NEWS 02/08/1999

23/07/99 UK: SCHOOL PHONE-MAST FURY - PARENTS BLAST COMPANY OVER 'SAFETY' FEARS.
By SOPHIE TWEEDALE.
ANGRY parents fear that a mobile phone mast being erected next door to a playground could damage children's health.
Telephone company Vodaphone is placing the 50ft metal pole next door to St Wilfred's Primary School, in Newton Heath, on land belonging to the local cricket club.
But parents, who say they were not told about the plans, are worried children will be exposed to dangerous cancer-causing radiation.
Telecommunications base stations have already been banned in some countries and the World Health Organisation has said more research should be carried out. The building work for the mast is already underway but comes just weeks after MP David Blunkett ordered an urgent inquiry into the siting of mobile phone masts near schools.
Paula Norton, a lollipop lady at St Wilfred's, has 10-year-old twin girls who attend the school.
She said: "I am absolutely disgusted about this, our opinions have not been taken into consideration at all.
"They seem to think that because Newton Heath is a bit of a run down area they can do what they like and that no one will care, but we do.
"I am very frustrated and angry, they are putting this up when they don't know

enough about it, and that could be putting our children's health at risk. We will be writing to our local MPs about this, it is a disgrace."
Lab councillor for Newton Heath Damien O'Connor said: "I am totally and utterly against this mast.
"We are going to fight tooth and nail over this and do everything we can to stop it going ahead."
A Vodaphone spokeswoman said that no research could show that the masts had a hazardous effect on health.
She added: "All Vodaphone radio base stations are designed to meet the health and safety guidelines as set out by the National Radiological Protection Board."

MANCHESTER EVENING NEWS 23/07/1999

11/03/99 UK: TOWNS WARY OF CELLNET'S ENCROACHING PHONE MASTS. WILLIAM CHISHOLM.
A PLAN by the mobile phone company Cellnet to put up mobile phone masts in three Scottish towns has provoked concern about potential health risks and the effect on the environment.
A network of masts put up by phone companies in rural areas across Britain has already provoked strong opposition from residents. But now, Cellnet, which is 60 per cent owned by BT, wants to improve reception by siting masts on land it owns at telephone exchanges close to town centres.
The company has been refused permission to put a 25-metre high transmission mast in the middle of a residential area at Selkirk in the Borders after strong protests from householders living within 100 yards of the site.
According to Tom Henderson, the councillor for the area: "It was very important to block this proposal because of the possible health risk and unsightly visual intrusion. The company wanted to get its mast on the cheap because it has control over the land at the Selkirk exchange."
Mr Henderson, a retired transmitter manager used a Cellnet mobile phone to test reception in every part of Selkirk. They claimed the exercise proved there was no need for yet another mast in that area.
During a recent meeting with Cellnet representatives, Mr Henderson was told that the first choice for a new mast would be the roof of Selkirk High School. He said: "The council would not agree to that because of the radiation factor. But surely the risk would be just as great in a well-populated part of the town. I was told the radiation levels permitted for the proposed mast were ten times higher than limits imposed elsewhere in Europe and America."
Ian Borthwick, the head of development control with the Borders planning authority, said his department had been notified about proposals by Cellnet to put up mobile phone masts in the built-up area at Jedburgh and in an outstanding conservation area in Melrose. In each case, the identified site was the local telephone exchange. Mr Borthwick said: "We are receiving a cascade of applications and although we thought the network of masts in the Borders would be sufficient by now, the companies are continuing to demand even more."
The planning authorities were concerned they were virtually powerless to stop development of masts under a certain height, Mr Borthwick said. There also seemed to be a reluctance in many cases to opt for mast-sharing to reduce the number of structures.
Cellnet has been told that its proposal for Jedburgh is not considered appropriate even though the mast could be put up without planning permission.
Craig Millar, an area planning officer based in Hawick, said: "It would have a significant impact on the townscape being close to a riverside walk and the A68 road. We are concerned that masts, once sited on distant hillsides, could now be

developed in town centres."
The Melrose site is only 100 yards from the town's 12th-century abbey, one of the main tourist attractions in the Borders.
Alister Lorimer, a senior council planner, said Cellnet needed the Melrose mast because customers wanted to use mobile phones in their homes and offices. But efforts would have to be made to limit the proliferation of masts in the Borders, he said.
Dave Massey, a spokesman for Cellnet, said the development of free-standing masts in towns was highly unusual. In 70 per cent of cases mobile phone equipment in urban areas was fixed to existing buildings and structures, he said.
Mr Massey added: "When it is considered essential to put up a new mast in an urban setting we will consider the effect on the environment and consult the planning authority. But we have to balance that with customer demand.
"The public should be assured that all of our sites operate within strict guidelines on radiation emissions. The World Health Organisation says radiation levels around mobile phone base stations are not considered a health risk. The power output from the top of an antenna is very low, around 100 watts."
SCOTSMAN 11/03/1999 P4

21/02/99 UK: PHONE MAST LINK TO CANCER IS DENIED.
By Sophie Goodchild.
A REPORT from the World Health Organisation, which says that mobile phone communications masts do not cause cancer, has been branded a "whitewash".
The as yet unpublished document, a copy of which has been obtained by The Independent on Sunday, claims there is no "tangible or proven scientific evidence" that emissions from base stations for mobile phones can cause cancer or other damage to health.
However, scientists and campaigners say the study, which took two years to complete, ignores independent research which has shown links between the masts and cancer.
They criticise the fact that the two scientists who produced the 42-page document, Electromagnetic Fields, are both employed by the National Radiological Protection Board, which is funded by a combination of government and private-sector money, some of which comes from mobile phone companies.
The report also refers to NRPB guidelines on safe emission levels, which are higher than those in mainland Europe.
Campaigners are concerned, too, that the report could mislead planning authorities, which have been sent a copy by the Department of Environment, Transport and the Regions. The DETR has circulated the document as part of its own consultation exercise on the erection of masts for mobile phones, and intends to publish guidelines on the issue later this year.
The WHO report, written by Philip Chadwick and Zenon Sienkiewicz, says the possibility of health risks from electromagnetic fields is an area where attitudes can be based "more on beliefs and fears than on scientific fact and knowledge", although it concedes that more research needs to be carried out.
It also suggests that power and communications companies could be encouraged to sponsor initiatives to educate the public over the issue.
The siting of mobile phone masts has already provoked a number of protests across Britain. Mobile phone companies such as Orange have taken steps to disguise masts as trees to minimise the visual impact, but this has not quelled opposition from growing numbers of people who are more concerned about the possible effects on their health.
This has caused problems for planning authorities and some have declined

permission for the masts to be sited near homes on the strength of public opinion.

Next month, there will be a judicial review in the High Court of a case brought by residents in Ballymacashen, Northern Ireland, who are objecting to the building of a mobile phone mast by Orange.

The families, who have already accused the DETR of failing to deal with their concerns, are backed by Northern Ireland Families Against Telecommunications Transmitters (Nifatt).

Nifatt wants to ensure that, in the future, phone masts are not erected within 300 to 500 metres of residential properties.

Margaret Dean, founder of Nifatt, claims people are being treated as guinea pigs and that the report is misleading. "It is a whitewash," she said. "We would have thought the WHO would have used European guidelines as their standard. This makes the report misleading. How long are they going to ignore the evidence?"

Her views are echoed by Roger Coghill, a biologist who has published his own research showing the effect of mobile phone emissions on the human immune system. "They are putting this document forward as a WHO document but it has been written by the NRPB," he said.

"There have been at least four studies which show there is a link between emissions and childhood leukaemia. The DETR should admit that there are health effects.

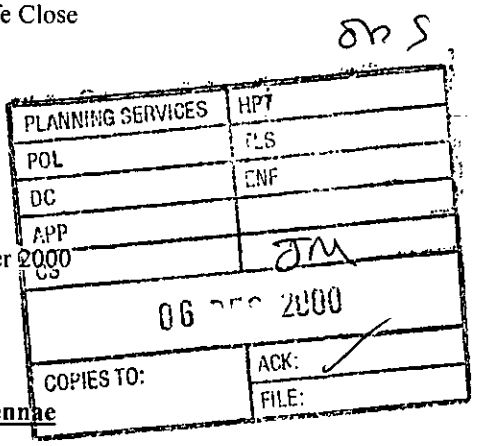
"If you had listened to the NRPB on the effects of X-rays, there would not be a single radiologist alive today. The report is totally biased and selective," he added.

Dr Michael Clarke, a spokesman for the NRPB, denied that the report was biased. "We were approached by the WHO because we are one of the only places with the right expertise," he said. "No one can be completely objective, but our scientists were acting independently and not representing the NRPB.

"We have nothing against anecdotal evidence but you have to look at the issue as a whole, and the whole shows there is no scientific evidence to prove there is a risk at guideline levels."

INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY 21/02/1999 P11

3 Highcliffe Close
Woodley
Reading
Berkshire
RG5 4RE



4 December 2000

Dear Sir

Planning Application No: TL/2000/2871
8 metre Telecommunications mast with three directional antennae

We are writing yet again to object strongly to the planning application above for an 8m "Orange" telecommunications mast being put up by Duffield Road railway bridge. Does Wokingham District Council not care for its residents. This is the third time this year we have written about planning applications for these masts to be situated in this vicinity. Surely Wokingham District Council should be able to say **NO** for these masts to be put up near any residential areas.

The mast would be very close to houses, which is unsightly in itself, but more importantly the health scares regarding the radiation from these masts. Lots of children and adults walk across Duffield Road Bridge everyday, many to reach Willowbank School and Waingel's Copse School which are nearby. This particular piece of land is also a "safe" place for people to watch the trains from and therefore nobody should be exposed to any radiation from this mast.

There is already a British Rail Transmitting station and an Electricity Sub-Station on this site which already emit some radiation. The increase of any radiation levels in this area would be very harmful to all people living nearby and those innocently walking past it or watching the trains.

The unsightly mast, close to our homes would also lead to the surrounding houses decreasing in value and would make them very difficult to resell.

Duffield Road railway bridge is by a very tight bend and where the mast is planning to be situated, it could cause a nasty accident for drivers, as some cars come round this corner too fast and drivers have to sometimes swerve on to the small area of land to avoid an accident happening and they would end up hitting the mast, if it was allowed to be put up.

We think that Orange Telecommunications are being totally unreasonable and very devious by putting up an out of date notice to confuse people, knowing full well that they have already been turned down at least once for this area.

We hope that all our views are taken into consideration and that you will **not allow** the planning application to be passed. It is common knowledge that these masts have been stopped from being put up near schools, play areas and residential areas and ours is no different. The proposed site is very close to houses, schools and people, and one house is less than 20 foot away from the proposed site.

Would you like it by your house? We don't think so!

Yours faithfully

Mr & Mrs M J Riley

FAO Mr J Miller
Wokingham District Council
Planning Department
Shute end
Wokingham
Berkshire
RG40 1WR

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	HPO
POL	TLS
DC	ENF
APP	
CB 0055	SCM
13 DEC 2000	
COPIES TO:	ACK:
	FILE:

Environmental Services Department
District Planning Officer
Wokingham District Council
Shute End
WOKINGHAM
Berks RG40 1WR
the attention of J.Miller

10th December 2000

Planning Application TL/2000/2871

We wish to register an objection to the above application for a telecommunication mast to be sited at the top of Duffield Road. This is the third such application to be processed relevant to this area in nine months, and the second on behalf of Orange Telecom. Whilst there us an undoubted increase in demand for mobile phone usage and therefore a need to improve signal strength in certain areas, we feel that in this case it is an attempt merely to overcome deficiencies in the railway cutting and therefore of minimal if any benefit to local residents.

Notwithstanding the above, we would also refer to the last protest and our letter to yourselves dated 8th July where it was pointed out that there are still many unresolved questions as to the health and safety factors from the radiation emissions standpoint. Furthermore, is the Council relaxing its oft stated policy regarding the siting of such objects in built-up residential areas (i.e. not within a 60 meter boundary)?

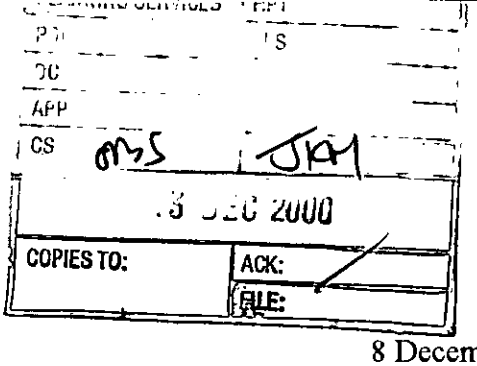
Finally, we would hope that councillors would refrain from entertaining any further such applications given the depth of local feeling towards these blots on our landscape. The continued action by our friends of the Copse Mead Residents Association underlines this and has our complete support

Yours faithfully,

C Davison

Mr. N . & Mrs. C. A. Davison,
'Applecote,
1 Highcliffe Close,
Woodley
Reading RG5 4RE.

CC; Sonning Parish Council
Woodley Town Council



12 Copse Mead
Woodley
Reading
Berkshire
RG5 4RP

8 December 2000.

Wokingham District Council
Planning Department
Shute End
Wokingham
Berkshire
RG40 1WR

Dear Sir ,

Ref: Planning Application TL / 2000 / 2871

I wish to make known my objection to the above planning application for the construction of an 8 m high Telecommunications mast on land adjacent to Duffields Bridge , Duffield Road , Woodley.

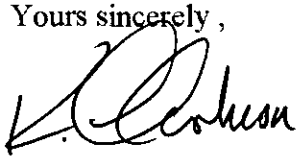
I base my objection upon the following :-

- The proposed position for this mast is adjacent to residential properties and as such is not in keeping with the general amenity of the area.
- There is a great deal of concern regarding the possible hazards associated with the use of mobile phones and also the level of radiation from transmission masts for such devices . The planning committee should note that the proposed site is adjacent to residential property and is besides the footpath on Duffield Road - a route used by school children on their way to Willowside and Waingels Copse Schools .
- This site already has an Electricity Sub-Station and a Transmitting Facility for British Rail , both of which contribute to emissions in this area .**Further sources of radiated energy at this site should not be agreed without a careful on-site assessment and evaluation by a competent and impartial authority.**
- The Railway Bridge at Duffield Road is a frequent attraction to Adults and Children watching passing Rail Traffic - they should not be subjected to Radiation from a Telecommunications mast or indeed any other source whilst upon the public highway.
- The proliferation of Mobile Phones is set to cause a corresponding proliferation in Transmission Masts , it is the duty of the Planning Authorities to ensure that Residential areas are protected from the impact such structures have on the environment.
- A previous application for the erection of a mast at this site was rejected - there is no evidence to suggest that this application should be regarded differently. Indeed there is heightened concern today that these masts **do** pose a hazard to the health of those living in close proximity to them - a matter the Planning Committee should take particular care to consider before reaching its decision.

Continued.....

I would be grateful if you would kindly ensure that my views are made known to the entire planning committee before this application is considered.

Yours sincerely ,



Kenneth Clarkson

Copied to:

Woodley Town Council
Cllr. Terry Dredge
Cllr. Coling Lawley
Copse Mead Residents Association

POL	TEC
DC	ENF
APP	
CS	
14 DEC 2000	
COPIES TO:	ACK: / FILE: /

Michael + Charlotte Evans
8C Copse Mead
Woodley
Reading, Berkshire
RG5 4RP

Tel: 0118-9694923

12th December, 2000

Attention of Mr Joss Miller - Environmental Services Dept.

Dear Sir,

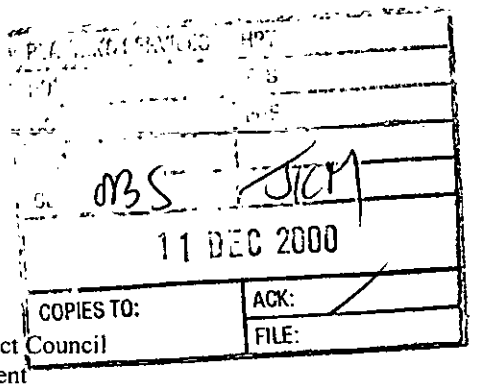
Planning application TL/2000/2871

We hereby object to the above application by Orange PCS Ltd, on the following grounds;

1. This telecommunications facility could pose a radiation danger to the health of junior school children going to and from Willow Bank School, Woodley, and to secondary school children going to and from Waingels Copse School, Woodley.
2. This facility could pose a radiation danger to residents, and especially children, living in adjacent streets.
3. This facility is totally unsuitable adjacent to a residential area, in its appearance as well as function.

This sort of application has been rejected before earlier this year, and we request that this application is also rejected.

Yours faithfully,
Michael Evans and Ch. Evans



33 Copse Mead
Woodley
Reading
Berkshire
RG5 4RP

FAO Mr J Miller
Wokingham District Council
Planning Department
Shute end
Wokingham
Berkshire
RG40 1WR

7 December 2000

Dear Sir

REF: APPLICATION TL/2000/2871
ORANGE PCS LTD

With reference to the above application, I would like to register my objection based on the same arguments as sent to you regarding the previous application TL/2000/0493, which was refused by the Wokingham District Planning Committee, according to your letter dated 23 March 2000.

It is surprising that the application has been accepted by the Planning Department, especially when the previous one was refused.

My objections are the same as previously, namely:

a) The mast will be adjacent to housing (some 40-50 feet) and would not be in keeping with the local housing permissions.

b) The other electrical installations at present on the proposed site could be affected and would cause problems with railway communication on a very congested line.

c) The question of radiation effects has not yet been settled and there is a large number of school children who use the bridge each day to go to and from Waingel's Copse School and Willowbank School. There is still the risk that these children may be affected by the radiation. There has also been comments on the use of mobile phones by children and Government sources have warned people about the excessive use of these instruments.

If Orange want a local transmission mast, then there is plenty of space at the Golf Club amid the many copses.

Yours faithfully

R A Waldron

PLANNING SERVICES | RPT
POL | TLS
DC | ENF
APP |
CS 0125 | JKM
13 DEC 2000
COPIES TO: | ACK:
FILE:

EP Rumble
14 Highcliffe Close
Woodley
Reading
Berkshire
RG5 4RE

9th December, 2000

Dear Mr Miller,

Re Planning Application no : TL/2000/2871 8 metre Telecommunications mast

My wife and I wish to oppose the above planning application on the following grounds :

- The positioning of such a large (non-essential) mast in a residential area is not in keeping with the general amenity of the surroundings.

- Safety concerns regarding radiation emissions from such masts in a residential area which is additionally close to two schools , Waingels Copse and Willow Bank (both attended by our own children). The impact of increased radiated emissions in an area that already contains a British Rail VHF Transmitting station and an Electricity Substation should be examined and evaluated by an impartial authority. These concerns are very real and would seem to be shared by our governing bodies in that new legislation is currently being implemented.

I had believed that the previous planning application **TL/2000/0493** had been refused for these very reasons so I am surprised (and frustrated) to see yet an another application.

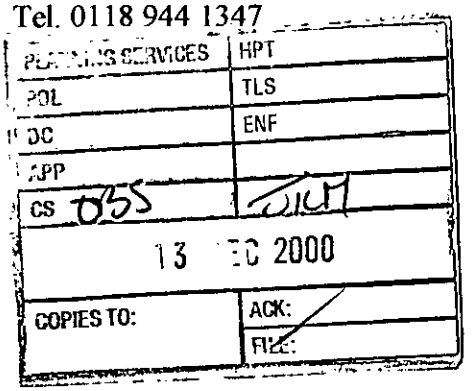
Yours Sincerely

E. Rumble. A Rumble

Eric and Alison Rumble

36 Copse Mead,
Woodley,
Reading,
Berkshire,
RG5 4RP.

Tel. 0118 944 1347



11 December 2000

Mr Joss Miller - Case Officer
Environmental Services Department
Planning Services
P O Box 157
Wokingham District Council
Shute End
Wokingham RG40 1WR

Re: Planning application TL/2000/2871

Dear Mr Miller,

We understand that a planning application has been made under the above reference for a mobile phone mast to be erected close to Copse Mead.

We wish to object most strongly to this application on the following grounds: -

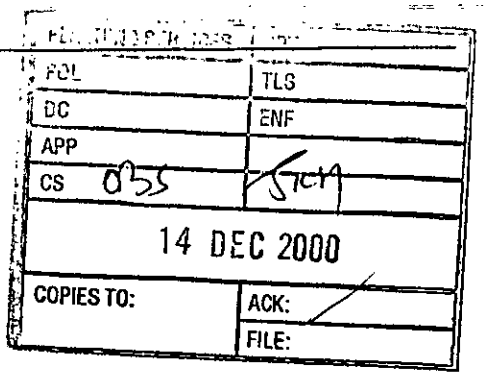
- The mast will be adjacent to residential properties and will not be in keeping with the general amenity of the area - it will be an eyesore!
- It has not been proved that these masts are safe to be erected near homes and where the public passes by - we will be exposed to the radiation from the mast.
- Children who use Duffield Road and Copse Mead each day to get to the two local schools will have to pass close by the mast and will be exposed to radiation and so will we as we use our road when walking, cycling or driving.

Please register our objection to this application.

Yours sincerely,

John Reeve (Mr.) Barbara Reeve (Mrs.)

Mr. & Mrs. D. B. Dow - 29 Duffield Road Woodley Reading Berks. RG5 4RL.
Tel :- (0118) 969 5634



Joss Miller – Case Officer
Environmental Services Department
Planning Services
PO Box 157
Wokingham District Council
Shute End
Wokingham
RG40 1WR

Dear Sirs,

Re Planning Application TL/2000/2871

With reference to the proposed planning application by Orange PCS ltd. to erect a mast on land adjoining Duffield Bridge, we strongly object to this application for the following reasons.

1) For the same reasons as the application by Orange in March this year, also by BT Cellnet in July for a similar application.
2) It has never been proved that radiation from these masts is safe to the community.
3) School children pass this site on a daily basis and it is very close to houses.
4) If planning is granted against the wishes of the local community, this could allow further applications for other companies to install antennae thus increasing the potential hazard of radiation.

Yours faithfully,
J Dow

Janet & Don Dow

12 Copse Mead
Woodley
Reading
Berkshire
RG5 4RP

8 December 2000.

Wokingham District Council
Planning Department
Shute End
Wokingham
Berkshire
RG40 1WR

Dear Sir ,

Ref: Planning Application TL / 2000 / 2871

I wish to make known my objection to the above planning application for the construction of an 8 m high Telecommunications mast on land adjacent to Duffields Bridge , Duffield Road , Woodley.

I base my objection upon the following :-

- The proposed position for this mast is adjacent to residential properties and as such is not in keeping with the general amenity of the area.
- There is a great deal of concern regarding the possible hazards associated with the use of mobile phones and also the level of radiation from transmission masts for such devices . The planning committee should note that the proposed site is adjacent to residential property and is besides the footpath on Duffield Road - a route used by school children on their way to Willowside and Waingels Copse Schools .
- This site already has an Electricity Sub-Station and a Transmitting Facility for British Rail , both of which contribute to emissions in this area .**Further sources of radiated energy at this site should not be agreed without a careful on-site assessment and evaluation by a competent and impartial authority.**
- The Railway Bridge at Duffield Road is a frequent attraction to Adults and Children watching passing Rail Traffic - they should not be subjected to Radiation from a Telecommunications mast or indeed any other source whilst upon the public highway.
- The proliferation of Mobile Phones is set to cause a corresponding proliferation in Transmission Masts , it is the duty of the Planning Authorities to ensure that Residential areas are protected from the impact such structures have on the environment.
- A previous application for the erection of a mast at this site was rejected - there is no evidence to suggest that this application should be regarded differently. Indeed there is heightened concern today that these masts **do** pose a hazard to the health of those living in close proximity to them - a matter the Planning Committee should take particular care to consider before reaching its decision.

Continued.....

I would be grateful if you would kindly ensure that my views are made known to the entire planning committee before this application is considered.

Yours sincerely ,

Kenneth Clarkson

Copied to:

Woodley Town Council
Cllr. Terry Dredge
Cllr. Coling Lawley
Copse Mead Residents Association

POL
DC
APP
CS 0935
14 DEC 2000
COPIES TO:
ACK:
FILE:

DR C J HUGHES
MRS F HUGHES
ST NICHOLAS
18b COPSE MEAD
WOODLEY
RG 5 4 RP

Ref planning application number: **TL/ 2000/2871.**
8 metre telecommunications mast

Dear Mr Miller

As a local General Practitioner and State Registered Nurse respectively we wish to object most strongly, on health grounds, to siting of the above telecommunications mast containing three directional antennae on the land adjacent to the railway bridge on the Copse Mead side of Duffield Rd. There have been sufficient adverse medical reports of radiated energy to raise concerns of health safety. There is already an Electricity Sub-Station and BR VHF Transmitting Station on site producing emissions of this type.

In a high density residential area Wokingham District Council must demonstrate convincingly that there are absolutely no grounds for health safety concerns before allowing this second planning application by Orange to proceed.

Furthermore it ought to be possible to seek a site where a mast of 8 metres (26feet) high would be less aesthetically obtrusive. We would most strongly suggest that as the planning services department rejected this application in March 2000, that it would be consistent to reject all other applications of this type.

Yours sincerely

For attention of Mr J Miller
Wokingham District Council
Shute End
Wokingham
Berks RG 40 1 WR

By hand 19.12.00.

PLANNING SERVICES	HPT
POL	TLS
DC	ENF
APP	
CS 035	JICM
18 . 2 . 00	
COPIES TO:	ACK:
	FILE:

District Planning Officer
Wokingham District Council
Shute End
WOKINGHAM
Berkshire
RG40 1WR

18th December 2000

For the Attention of Joss Miller/John Mitchell

Planning Application Reference TL/2000/2871
8 metre Telecommunication mast with three directional antennae.

Dear Sir/Madam

Further to our letter of objection dated 11th December 2000 we would like to add the following.

It is our understanding that Wokingham District Council are exploring possible options to alleviate traffic/cycling/pedestrian safety problems associated with Duffield Road, the road bridge and the lack of footpaths over the bridge and beyond towards Pound Lane.

We would like to remind you that any recommendation put before the council in respect of these road safety options could be frustrated by the installation of the above 8 metre Telecomunnication mast. For example if a footbridge was the recommendation and if the mast was allowed this could be in the way of any access/egress routes to the footbridge. The mast location could also impede any possible widening of the bridge. I am sure that you will be aware of any other road safety considerations that may be affected if the mast installation were allowed.

Yours faithfully

Mr. R.E. Ayling
1 Copse Mead
Woodley
READING
Berkshire
RG5 4RP

Mrs. F.S. Ayling

Telephone 0118 9694647

c.c. Woodley Town Council
Terry Dredge
Coling Lawley
David Tindall

Little Gables,
27, Copse Mead,
Woodley.
Berkshire.
RG5 4RP.

15th December 2000.

CS. OBS JCM

COPIES TO: JCK FILE:

Mr. J. Miller,
Planning Department,
PO Box 157,
Wokingham District Council,
Shute End,
Wokingham.
RG 40 1 WB.

Dear Sir,

PLANNING APPLICATION NO. TL/2000/2871.
ORANGE PCS LTD. SITE OFF DUFFIELD ROAD, WOODLEY.

I have been informed that Orange PCS Ltd. have applied for planning consent for the erection of a 8m. telecommunications mast with antennae and a large equipment cabinet on land adjacent to No. 1 Copse Mead, Woodley, RG5 4RP.

As both a retired planning consultant and a resident of Copse Mead living some 200 yards from the site I wish to record my strongest objections to this proposal.

I have not yet had the opportunity of inspecting the details of this application but I believe that it is in essence a repeat of the previous submission on this, or a nearby site, which was rejected by your Council earlier in the year.

My grounds of objection encompass the reasons already expressed by myself and other objectors to the previous application. The mast and so-called cabinet, fencing etc. would form an unobstructed eyesore in a very pleasant residential area. Transmissions from such masts have in no way been proved not to be a hazard to health in a populated residential area - this important point has been the subject to numerous articles in National publications and professional journals - apart from the precedent of there being numerous planning and appeal refusals in comparable cases. There is no evidence of the necessity of this precise location - there are less harmful and more acceptable sites which I can identify and are available in the district. I should be glad to elaborate; having lived here for 43 years with my former offices in Reading, Woodley, Twyford and Wokingham I have some local knowledge and planning experience in the district.

I thus request that you Council reject this application. It is clearly unacceptable to the large majority of the local electors, who the Council represent. In this case a refusal can be the only equitable decision: the applicant will still have the right of an Appeal. A Consent is final and the objectors would, unlike the applicant, have no right of Appeal against the Council's assent.

If Orange want this site let it go to Appeal when both sides can argue their case. The Council represents local electors and should not allow expense of Appeal to enter into the matter.

I look forward to hearing from you.
With best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Yours faithfully,

R.J. WADE FRICS.

P.S. Excuse fast typing - I no longer have a secretary!

Copies to:
Theresa May, M.P.
Chairman etc.
Local Councillor.

Joss Miller

To: Nigel Rose
Subject: RE: TL/2000/2871

Dear Cllr. Rose,

Thankyou for your enquiry. I apologise for the late response but I have been on leave. The Telecommunications Licence TL/2000/2871 is south of the railway bridge and is, therefore, in Woodley. On 5 December 2000, I sent a letter to the agent requesting prior approval of this scheme, due to its proximity to residential properties. However, none of your constituents are within 60 metres of the proposed mast (the nearest being Keepers House) so any potential impact on them would be reduced.

This application will expire on 10 January 2001. A previous application in a similar position to this one was refused last year, so I believe an appeal will be forthcoming if the application is refused.

I hope this clarifies matters for you. If you have any further queries regarding this matter please ring me on (0118) 974 6463.

Regards

Joss Miller

-----Original Message-----
From: Nigel Rose [SMTP:Nigel.Rose@ukgateway.net]
Sent: 16 December 2000 16:30
To: Joss Miller
Cc: John R Mitchell
Subject: TL/2000/2871

Joss,
In going back through the planning list for 27.11.00 before consigning it to the bin, I noticed the application under Woodley by Orange at Duffield Bridge. Is this application really for a site in Woodley? Is it south or north of the railway? If it is north it is in Sonning and I should have been notified. Could you please advise me urgently as to the status of this application and potential impact on Sonning residents north of the railway.

Thanks,

Kind regards,

Nigel Rose

The information in this e-mail is confidential and may be legally privileged. It is intended solely for the addressee. Unless expressly authorised in writing, disclosure, copying, distribution and/or retention, in part or in whole, of this e-mail is prohibited and may be unlawful.

Nigel Rose cannot guarantee that any files attached to this e-mail are free from viruses or any other program code that may be harmful to your computer and, as such, is not liable for any damage that may be caused as a result.

Please delete this e-mail if it is not intended for you.

District Planning Officer
Wokingham District Council
Shute End
WOKINGHAM
Berkshire
RG40 1WR

18th December 2000

For the Attention of Joss Miller/John Mitchell

Planning Application Reference TL/2000/2871
8 metre Telecommunication mast with three directional antennae.

Dear Sir/Madam

Further to our letter of objection dated 11th December 2000 we would like to add the following.

It is our understanding that Wokingham District Council are exploring possible options to alleviate traffic/cycling/pedestrian safety problems associated with Duffield Road, the road bridge and the lack of footpaths over the bridge and beyond towards Pound Lane.

We would like to remind you that any recommendation put before the council in respect of these road safety options could be frustrated by the installation of the above 8 metre Telecomunnication mast. For example if a footbridge was the recommendation and if the mast was allowed this could be in the way of any access/egress routes to the footbridge. The mast location could also impede any possible widening of the bridge. I am sure that you will be aware of any other road safety considerations that may be affected if the mast installation were allowed.

Yours faithfully

Mr. R.E. Ayling
1 Copse Mead
Woodley
READING
Berkshire
RG5 4RP

Mrs. F.S. Ayling

Telephone 0118 9694647

c.c. Woodley Town Council
Terry Dredge
Coling Lawley
David Tindall



Dr. D. W. Tindall
"The Sheiling"
25 Copse Mead
Woodley
Reading
RG5 4RP
Tel: 0118 969 6926

District Planning Officer
Wokingham District Council
Shute End
Wokingham
Berkshire
RG40 1WR

16 December 2000

For the attention of Joss Miller , Case Officer

Planning Application TL/2000/2871
8 metre Telecommunications mast with three directional antennae

Dear madam

We wish to register our objection to the above application for the following reasons.

1. We believe that Wokingham District Council have a precautionary principle of not siting such a mast within 60m of a place where people spend long periods. The houses at the end of Copse Mead, the Northern end of Duffield Road and most of Highfield Close lie within this range. I have frequently seen railway enthusiasts spend many hours on the bridge waiting for special trains to pass along Sonning Cutting. Pupils from Waingels Copse and Willowbank schools pass within a few meters of this site regularly.
2. Despite Orange stating that new technology makes their masts less obtrusive, we still think there are enough poles around already and this one will be in full view of some residents.
3. We have read the latest information provided by the National Radiological Protection Board on the Internet. They still appear to be unsure of the effects on humans of radio signals from all sources in one particular place, and whether radiation can influence the function of the brain. They call for more research on this topic.

Until we can be absolutely sure that there are no detrimental effects to humans over an extended period of exposure, we should be very careful and err on the side of safety.

Yours sincerely

D W Tindall

Dave and Hilary Tindall

Cc Woodley Town Council
Terry Dredge
Coling Lawley

By hand 19.12.00.

POL	TLS
DC	ENF
APP	
CS OBS	JX41
19 DEC 2000	
COPIES TO:	ACK: / FILE:



Dr. D. W. Tindall
"The Sheiling"
25 Copse Mead
Woodley
Reading
RG5 4RP
Tel: 0118 969 6926

District Planning Officer
Wokingham District Council
Shute End
Wokingham
Berkshire
RG40 1WR

16 December 2000

For the attention of Joss Miller , Case Officer

Planning Application TL/2000/2871
8 metre Telecommunications mast with three directional antennae

Dear madam

As Chairman of the Copse Mead Residents Association, I enclose a number of petition sheets which have been completed by residents of Copse Mead, Duffield Road and Highcliffe Close. Many of these residents have already written to you in person to register their objections to the siting of a 8m mast adjacent to the South side of the railway, Duffield Road, Woodley. As with the successful rejection of the previous Orange application in March 2000 and BT Cellnet in July 2000, we hope that these signatures and the reasons for our objections, will contribute to your discussions, and influence the outcome.

Yours faithfully

Dave Tindall – Chairman, Copse Mead Residents Association

Cc Woodley Town Council
Terry Dredge
Coling Lawley

PETITION AGAINST THE CONSTRUCTION OF A TELECOMMUNICATIONS MAST AT JUNCTION OF COPSE MEAD AND DUFFIELD ROAD APPLICATION NUMBER TL/2000/2871

WE, THE UNDERSIGNED, WISH TO REGISTER OUR OBJECTION TO PLANNING APPLICATION TL/2000/2871 ON THE FOLLOWING GROUNDS.

- The siting of a 8m mast adjacent to residential properties is not in keeping with the general amenity of the area
- Sufficient concerns have been voiced regarding the radiation from these masts to have prevented the siting of such masts adjacent to schools, and residential areas. This particular siting on the junction of Copse Mead and Duffield road is passed by many children going to and from Willowbank and Waingels Copse schools.
- It is not uncommon to see adults and young children at the railway bridge watching trains – they should not be exposed to radiation from such a source upon the public highway.

NAME	ADDRESS	SIGNATURE
J. M. Chey	31 Copse Mead	J. M. Chey
Dave Tindall	25 Copse Mead	
MR + MRS J.K HARKER	43 Copse Mead	
Mr + Mrs Turner	18 Copse Mead	
	27 " "	
C.A. WADE	22 " "	
K. CLARKSON	12 COPSE MEAD	
AZRIN ADNAN	12 COPSE MEAD	
JANE STEVENS	11 COPSE MEAD	J Stevens
Mark TURNER	18 COPSE MEAD	
M. O'Hare	34 Copse Mead	M. O'Hare.
H. O'HARE	" " " "	H. O'Hare
CC GREENWAY	32 COPSE MEAD	
S S INGHAM	20 COPSE MEAD	
N Tindall	25 COPSE MEAD	

PETITION AGAINST THE CONSTRUCTION OF A TELECOMMUNICATIONS MAST AT JUNCTION OF COPSE MEAD AND DUFFIELD ROAD APPLICATION NUMBER TL/2000/2871

WE, THE UNDERSIGNED, WISH TO REGISTER OUR OBJECTION TO PLANNING APPLICATION TL/2000/2871 ON THE FOLLOWING GROUNDS.

- The siting of a 8m mast adjacent to residential properties is not in keeping with the general amenity of the area
- Sufficient concerns have been voiced regarding the radiation from these masts to have prevented the siting of such masts adjacent to schools, and residential areas. This particular siting on the junction of Copse Mead and Duffield road is passed by many children going to and from Willowbank and Waingels Copse schools.
- It is not uncommon to see adults and young children at the railway bridge watching trains – they should not be exposed to radiation from such a source upon the public highway.

NAME	ADDRESS	SIGNATURE
R E Ayling	1 Copse Mead	
F S Ayling	1 Copse Mead	
C. DAVISON	1 HIGHCLIFFE CLOSE	
A. LOMAX	2 HIGHCLIFFE CLOSE	
P. LOMAX	2 HIGHCLIFFE CLOSE	
J. RILEY	3 Highcliffe close	
V CASHIN	4 Highcliffe close	
[illegible] Reynolds	5 HIGHCLIFFE CLOSE	
[illegible] Reynolds	5 Highcliffe Close	
M. [illegible]	6 Highcliffe Close	
J. HALL	6 Highcliffe Close	
S M Drakeford-Lewis	8 Highcliffe Cl...	
C WILKINSON	9 Highcliffe Close	
A JENKINS	10 HIGHCLIFFE CLOSE	
C. BEET	11 HIGHCLIFFE CLOSE	
E. RUMBLE	14 HIGHCLIFFE CLOSE	
A. Rumble	14 Highcliffe Close	
[illegible] AF CARTER	16 Highcliffe Close	
M CARTER	"	

3 of 8

PETITION AGAINST THE CONSTRUCTION OF A TELECOMMUNICATIONS MAST AT JUNCTION OF COPSE MEAD AND DUFFIELD ROAD APPLICATION NUMBER TL/2000/2871

WE, THE UNDERSIGNED, WISH TO REGISTER OUR OBJECTION TO PLANNING APPLICATION TL/2000/2871 ON THE FOLLOWING GROUNDS.

- The siting of a 8m mast adjacent to residential properties is not in keeping with the general amenity of the area
- Sufficient concerns have been voiced regarding the radiation from these masts to have prevented the siting of such masts adjacent to schools, and residential areas. This particular siting on the junction of Copse Mead and Duffield road is passed by many children going to and from Willowbank and Waingels Copse schools.
- It is not uncommon to see adults and young children at the railway bridge watching trains – they should not be exposed to radiation from such a source upon the public highway.

NAME	ADDRESS	SIGNATURE
P.H. HINNELL	37 DUFFIELD RD.	P Hinnell
J. DOW	29 DUFFIELD RD	J Dow
H. A WICKED	44 Duffield Rd	H A Wicked
D. B. DOW.	29 DUFFIELD RD	D B Dow
J. NICHOLSON	46 DUFFIELD RD	J M Nicholson
S. BLAND	15 HIGHCLIFFE CLOSE	S Bland
A. MCGOWAN	15 HIGHCLIFFE CLOSE	A McGowan

PETITION AGAINST THE CONSTRUCTION OF A TELECOMMUNICATIONS MAST AT JUNCTION OF COPSE MEAD AND DUFFIELD ROAD APPLICATION NUMBER TL/2000/2871

WE, THE UNDERSIGNED, WISH TO REGISTER OUR OBJECTION TO PLANNING APPLICATION TL/2000/2871 ON THE FOLLOWING GROUNDS.

- The siting of a 8m mast adjacent to residential properties is not in keeping with the general amenity of the area
- Sufficient concerns have been voiced regarding the radiation from these masts to have prevented the siting of such masts adjacent to schools, and residential areas. This particular siting on the junction of Copse Mead and Duffield road is passed by many children going to and from Willowbank and Waingels Copse schools.
- It is not uncommon to see adults and young children at the railway bridge watching trains – they should not be exposed to radiation from such a source upon the public highway.

NAME	ADDRESS	SIGNATURE
E. SQUIRES	26 Copse Mead Woodley	E Squires
J SQUIRES	" " "	J Squires
A. SWELL	24 " " "	A Swell.
Patsy Swell	24 Copse Mead	P Swell.
K. Waldron	33 do	K Waldron
Jane Waldron	33 -do-	J Waldron
A. Roberts	41 "	A. Roberts
K Roberts	" "	K. Roberts
AV Phillips	30 COPSE MEAD	A V Phillips
Doreen Phillips	30 COPSE MEAD	Doreen Phillips
F.R. GORDON	22 COPSE MEAD	F.R. Gordon
H.A. GORDON	22 COPSE MEAD	Hazel A Gordon
M. ROSE	35 COPSE MEAD	Marie Rose
P. Rose	35 COPSE MEAD	P Rose
J Connell	37 Copse Mead	J Connell
S. Connell	37 Copse Mead	S Connell
C. HUGHES	18B COPSE MEAD	C Hughes
[illegible]	18B. Copse Mead	[illegible]
Z. CHENG	31 Copse Mead	Z. Cheng

PETITION AGAINST THE CONSTRUCTION OF A TELECOMMUNICATIONS MAST AT JUNCTION OF COPSE MEAD AND DUFFIELD ROAD APPLICATION NUMBER TL/2000/2871

WE, THE UNDERSIGNED, WISH TO REGISTER OUR OBJECTION TO PLANNING APPLICATION TL/2000/2871 ON THE FOLLOWING GROUNDS.

- The siting of a 8m mast adjacent to residential properties is not in keeping with the general amenity of the area
- Sufficient concerns have been voiced regarding the radiation from these masts to have prevented the siting of such masts adjacent to schools, and residential areas. This particular siting on the junction of Copse Mead and Duffield road is passed by many children going to and from Willowbank and Waingels Copse schools.
- It is not uncommon to see adults and young children at the railway bridge watching trains – they should not be exposed to radiation from such a source upon the public highway.

NAME	ADDRESS	SIGNATURE
L.A. POWELL	23 COPSE MEAD	[signature]
	WOODLEY RG5 4RP	[signature]
Alson Roberts	21 copse mead	[signature]
S. EYRE	19 COPSE MEAD	[signature]
D. BIRCH	17 COPSE MEAD	David Birch
D. JACOBS	16 COPSE MEAD	[signature]
A. LAVELL	14 COPSE MEAD	[signature]
A. ROLFE	15 COPSE MEAD	A Rolfe
M. HAYNOE	9. COPSE MEAD	M. Haynoe
M.E. GARNER	4 COPSE MEAD	M E Garner
H. PULLAR	7 Copse Mead	H.P. Pullar
P. LING	2 COPSE MEAD	P.E. Ling
[illegible]	18A COPSE MEAD	H. HARDCASTLE
M. EVANS	18C COPSE MEAD	[signature]
C. EVANS	" "	C. Evans

7x

PETITION AGAINST THE CONSTRUCTION OF A TELECOMMUNICATIONS MAST AT JUNCTION OF COPSE MEAD AND DUFFIELD ROAD APPLICATION NUMBER TL/2000/2871

WE, THE UNDERSIGNED, WISH TO REGISTER OUR OBJECTION TO PLANNING APPLICATION TL/2000/2871 ON THE FOLLOWING GROUNDS.

- The siting of a 8m mast adjacent to residential properties is not in keeping with the general amenity of the area
- Sufficient concerns have been voiced regarding the radiation from these masts to have prevented the siting of such masts adjacent to schools, and residential areas. This particular siting on the junction of Copse Mead and Duffield road is passed by many children going to and from Willowbank and Waingels Copse schools.
- It is not uncommon to see adults and young children at the railway bridge watching trains – they should not be exposed to radiation from such a source upon the public highway.

NAME	ADDRESS	SIGNATURE
JAN MILLS	31 Duffield Rd	
TRISHA HALSTEAD	35 Duffield Rd	
GILLIAN M. CALLUM	12, HIGHCLIFFE CLOSE	
HELEN REEVES	33 DUFFIELD RD	
MARTIN RILEY	3 Highcliffe Close	
ROBERT MILLIGAN	7 HIGHCLIFFE CLOSE.	
NEIL DAVISON	1 HIGHCLIFFE CLOSE	

8/

Mr. & Mrs. D. B. Dow - 29 Duffield Road Woodley Reading Berks. RG5 4RL.
Tel :- (0118) 969 5634

Joss Miller – case Officer
Environmental Services Department
Planning Services
PO Box 157
Wokingham District Council
Shute End
Wokingham
RG40 1WR

Dear Sirs,

Re Planning Application TL/2000/2871

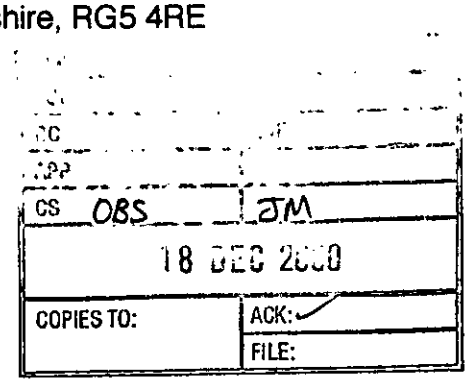
With reference to the proposed planning application by Orange PCS ltd. to erect a mast on land adjoining Duffield Bridge, we strongly object to this application for the following reasons.

1) For the same reasons as the application by Orange in March this year, also by BT Cellnet in July for a similar application.
2) It has never been proved that radiation from these masts is safe to the community.
3) School children pass this site on a daily basis and it is very close to houses.
4) If planning is granted against the wishes of the local community, this could allow further applications for other companies to install antennae thus increasing the potential hazard of radiation.

Yours faithfully,

Janet & Don Dow

Michael Ayerst, 6 Highcliffe Close, Woodley, Reading, Berkshire, RG5 4RE
Telephone: 0118 9696 738



Joss Miller
Environmental Services Department
Planning Services
PO Box 157
Wokingham District Council
Shute End
Wokingham
RG40 1WR

CASE: TL/2000/2871

Dear Joss,

I understand that there has been yet another application to erect a mobile phone mast close to Copse Mead. I trust that this new application will not receive planning permission and can see no reason to alter earlier decisions.

There is still a good deal of uncertainty about the safety of these masts and I also believe this will present a hazard to local children.

This is a residential area and not a suitable place for tall masts.

Yours sincerely

Michael Ayerst

PLANNING SERVICES | HPT
POL | TLS
DC | EHF
APP |
OBS | JM
18 DEC 2000
COPIES TO: | ACK: ✓
FILE:

14 Copse Mead.
Woodley,
Berks. RG5-4RP.

12th December, 2000

For the Attention of J. Miller.

Wokingham District Council
Shute End,
Wokingham RG40 1WR.

J Miller,

Planning Application TL/2000/2871

Regarding the above application on behalf of Orange Telecommunications, I wish to object to the siting of this mast for the following reason.

During the last few days I have received from Wokingham District Council a questionaire regarding safer routes to school. The schools in question are Waingel's Copse Secondary School, and Willow Bank Infant and Junior School. The proposed safety routes to school will take children immediately past the proposed mast, and as the safety of these masts has, of yet not been established, this seems foolish. This mast will also be in a residential area where pre school children are present.

Yours faithfully,

A. Lavell (Mrs)

15 Highcliffe Close
Woodley
Berkshire
RG5 4RE

18th December 2000

Wokingham District Council

Dear Sir/Madam,

Planning Application no. – TL/2000/2871

I am writing to object about the proposed telecommunications pole / antennae which Orange PCS Ltd. wish to erect.

I live at 15 Highcliffe Close which is about 25 metres from the site of the proposed telecommunications mast. I object to the mast for two main reasons:

1. my partner and I have an 8 month old baby and we are genuinely concerned about the potentially harmful effects of living so close to such a telecommunications mast. I myself work in the telecoms industry and know that there are real uncertainties about the 'possible' health impacts of such masts. Orange would disagree with this, as no doubt they would also disagree with the government's recent decision to place a "Health Warning" on new mobile phones.

2. such a high telecoms mast is fundamentally unsightly and there is absolutely NO reason that it needs to be sited in a residential area. There are many industrial estates close to the proposed site which would be a more appropriate location for such a large mast.

I hope that the Council will take into account the genuine concerns of local residents when considering this Planning Application.

Yours sincerely,

Stephen Bland

Stephen Bland



PL
POL
DC
APP
CS OBS JLM
20
COPIES TO:
ACK
FILE

Dr. D. W. Tindall
"The Sheiling"
25 Copse Mead
Woodley
Reading
RG5 4RP
Tel: 0118 969 6926

District Planning Officer
Wokingham District Council
Shute End
Wokingham
Berkshire
RG40 1WR

16 December 2000

For the attention of Joss Miller , Case Officer

Planning Application TL/2000/2871
8 metre Telecommunications mast with three directional antennae

Dear madam

We wish to register our objection to the above application for the following reasons.

1. We believe that Wokingham District Council have a precautionary principle of not siting such a mast within 60m of a place where people spend long periods. The houses at the end of Copse Mead, the Northern end of Duffield Road and most of Highfield Close lie within this range. I have frequently seen railway enthusiasts spend many hours on the bridge waiting for special trains to pass along Sonning Cutting. Pupils from Waingels Copse and Willowbank schools pass within a few meters of this site regularly.
2. Despite Orange stating that new technology makes their masts less obtrusive, we still think there are enough poles around already and this one will be in full view of some residents.
3. We have read the latest information provided by the National Radiological Protection Board on the Internet. They still appear to be unsure of the effects on humans of radio signals from all sources in one particular place, and whether radiation can influence the function of the brain. They call for more research on this topic.

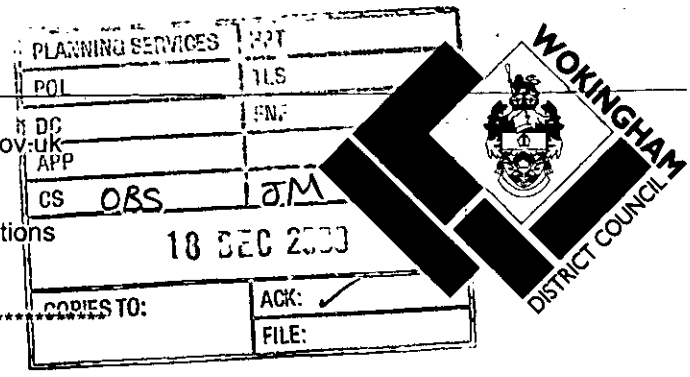
Until we can be absolutely sure that there are no detrimental effects to humans over an extended period of exposure, we should be very careful and err on the side of safety.

Yours sincerely

D W Tindall H J Tindall

Dave and Hilary Tindall

Cc Woodley Town Council
Terry Dredge
Coling Lawley



Ian Jordan

From:	WebComments@wokingham.gov.uk
Sent:	17 December 2000 23:57
To:	ian.jordan@wokingham.gov.uk
Subject:	Comments on Planning Applications

PLANNING SERVICES | HPT
POL | TLS
DC | ENF
APP
CS OBS | JM
18 DEC 2000
COPIES TO: | ACK: ✓
FILE:

WOKINGHAM DISTRICT COUNCIL

****

NatureofEmail: Object
ApplicationNumber: TL/2000/2871
Correspondent_FullName: Mr M J Bingham
Correspondent_StreetAddress: 20 Copse Mead
Correspondent_Address2: Woodley
Correspondent_Town: Reading
Correspondent_County: Berkshire
Correspondent_PostCode: RG5 4RP
Correspondent_Telephone: 0118 969 8683
Correspondent_Email: m.bingham@talk21.com

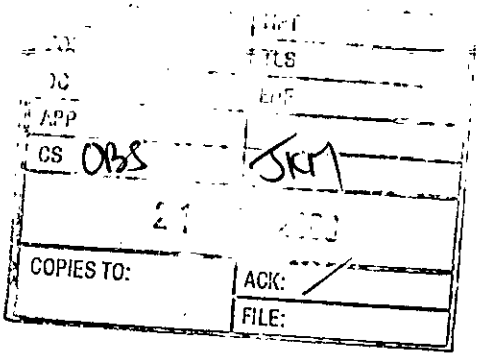
obs
2000/2871

Comments:

Re Proposed Telephone Mast

My children wrote to you earlier this year expressing their concerns if a mast was erected at the end of our road. You may have a copy on file and, as far as I can see, the latest application is almost identical.
My concerns revolve around health and safety: -
The unknown consequences of living close to a mast.
The risk / danger of injury from children using the mast as a climbing frame.

What has changed since last time is the fact that Wokinghan DC have recently designated Duffield Road as a proposed 'Safe Route to School'. This means more children will be exposed to any emmissions and the temptation to climb.



16, Highcliffe Close,
Woodley,
Reading,
RG5 4RE

20th December 2000

Joss Miller – Case Officer,
Environmental Services Department,
Planning Services,
P.O.Box 157
Wokingham District Council,
Shute End,
Wokingham RG40 1WR

Dear Sir,

Application Number: TL/2000/2871

Site Address: Land adjoining Duffields Bridge, Duffield Road, Woodley.

Proposal: Proposed erection of 8 metre high telecommunications pole with 3 directional antennae and equipment cabinet.

I wish to protest in the strongest possible terms to the erection of the above. It is far too close to my home and I already have a Railtrack antenna and equipment cabinet not more than 6 metres from my kitchen window. In addition there is an electricity sub-station already present on the land by Duffields Bridge

Willowbank Junior School is fairly close by and children from both there and Waingels Copse pass by here on their way to and from school.

We are all aware that nothing has been proven as yet, regarding the erection of these masts, but neither has their long term damage to health been disproved. We are subject to enough background radiation already.

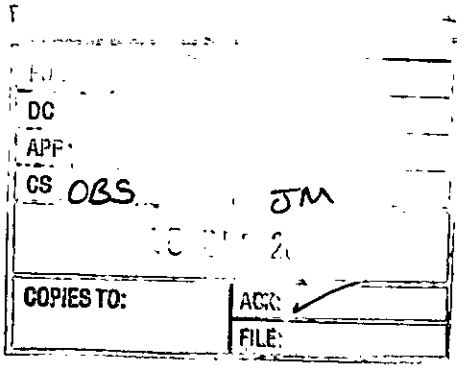
I am sure you have no wish to be the Planning Authority to give consent, to what, as with BSE, could in the long term be a health risk to any resident of Wokingham District Council.

I urge you to reject out of hand this proposal.

Yours faithfully,

Miss A. F. Carter

M Carter (Mrs)
Moira Carter



33 Duffield Road
Woodley
Reading
Berkshire
RG5 4RL

11th December 2000

Miss J Miller
Environment Services Dept
Planning Services
P O Box 157
Wokingham District Council
Shute End
Wokingham RG40 1WR

Dear Madam

Re: Application No. TL/2000/2871
Site Address: Land Adjoining Duffield Bridge, Duffield Road, Woodley, Reading

We are in receipt of your letter dated 1st December 2000 regarding the above proposal and are writing to express our concerns regarding the proposed erection of the mobile phone mast. Our concerns are based on the potential longer term damage that such structures can cause to the environment. At this stage, research regarding the effects of omissions from such structures appears to be inconclusive.

We have young children and hope to remain in Duffield Road at least until after our children have finished their education and it is primarily our concern regarding the potential impact upon all local residents and their children which has caused us to write to you now. Surely, if there is any element of doubt that the erection of a mast could cause illness or environmental damage, then the mast should not be erected.

We object strongly to the proposal and await your further comments in due course.

Yours faithfully

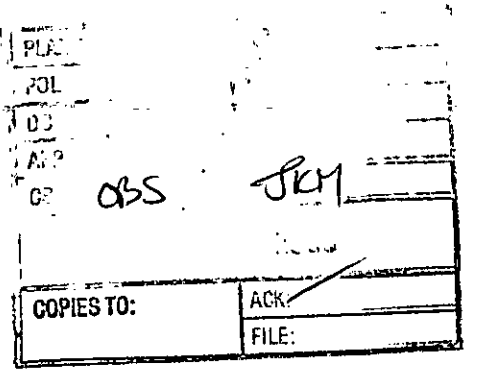
V. Reeves

Helen Reeves

Mr V Reeves

Mrs H S Reeves

Byhand 11.12.00



District Planning Officer
Wokingham District Council
Shute End
WOKINGHAM
Berkshire
RG40 1WR

11th December 2000

For the Attention of Joss Miller/John Mitchell

Planning Application Reference TL/2000/2871
8 metre Telecommunication mast with three directional antennae.

Dear Sir/Madam

We wish to register an objection to this application for a telecommunication mast. The reasons for our objection are as follows:

1. Planning Policy

(a) The proposal appears to conflict with Wokingham's precautionary principle of not siting this mast within 60 metres of of places where people spend long periods. Our house and properties in nearby Highfield Close fall within this limit.

(b) This week (W/C 4th December) Government gave notice that full planning permission for the installation of mobile phone masts will be required in the near future.

(c) The white site notice displayed on a lamp post adjacent to our property by the agents acting for Orange states that objections/comments should be forwarded to Wokingham District Council by the 9th September 1999. The notice signature is dated 29th November 2000.

2. Effect On Neighbouring Property

The siting of such a mast adjacent to residential properties is not in keeping with the general amenity of the area. Orange state that the mast will out of direct view of any housing. We would contend that it will be in direct view from our house and garden. It is also in the sight line of some houses in Highfield Close.

3. Traffic Hazard

We would contend that (a) when exiting from Copse Mead the mast can restrict a view of traffic coming from the right over the railway bridge (b) any additional contractors vehicles and equipment (we already have frequent visits from Railtrack and the Electricity Board to the site) will make an existing dangerous location for pedestrians and vehicles even worse.

4. Safety Issues

(a) Orange state that Health and safety is not a reason that can be used for refusal of prior approval. Stockton Borough Council in October 1999 refused permission to allow two antennae at two sites in their area for Orange on health and safety grounds contrary to their planning officers' advice.

(b) We would contend that a combination of low frequency sources (Electricity sub station) and high frequency sources (the existing Railtrack antenna plus the proposed Orange mast) would increase radiated energy levels and should be evaluated by an independent expert.

(c) We have evidence that another mobile phone company (One to One) uses the concept of exclusion zones around celluar base stations, with suitable warning signage, to ensure that no worker or member of the general public is exposed to radio frequency radiation above recommended investigation levels. They further state that under normal conditions no one should be permitted to enter an exclusion zone whilst the transmitting antennas are operational. This exclusion zone is considered to be a box that extends 4.3 metres directly in front of the antenna. We contend that the planned location of this mast cannot be contained within this exclusion zone because it is adjacent to a public road and footpath.

(e) This week (W/C 4th December) the Government has advised that use of mobile phones should be limited as far as possible especially in relation to use by children thereby raising the unknown safety issues yet again.

5. Other Issues

(a) Orange state that the application is for a microcell antennae. Our understanding is that this unit operates typically in a very localised proximity. One third of the radius from this antennae will be over Sonning Golf Club grounds.

(b) Orange also state that "it will improve coverage including building coverage and call capacity in the surrounding area". From discusssion with neighbours who currently use the Orange system there appears to be no apparent loss of signal.

(c) We would suggest that this application is solely to enhance signals for railway users, Sonning Cutting presumably creating a dead spot. Perhaps a more suitable location for this antenna could be found on the railway embankment away from local housing.

Yours faithfully

Mr. R.E. Ayling
1 Copse Mead
Woodley
READING
Berkshire
RG5 4RP

Telephone 0118 9694647

Mrs. F.S. Ayling

c.c. Woodley Town Council
Terry Dredge
Coling Lawley
David Tindall

Ross Miller - Case Officer
P.O. Box 157
W.D.C.
RG40 1WR

38 Copse Mead
Wordley
Reading
RG5 4RP

12.12.2000

PLANNING SERVICES UNIT
POL | TLS
DC | ENF
APP |
CS 0035 | JKM
14 DEC 2000
COPIES TO: | ACK: | FILE:

Dear Sir,

Planning Application TL/2000/2871

From the information available it is not obvious if the present application is a carbon copy of the previous application made by Orange PCS Ltd, or a slightly modified variant. In either case, I ask you to recover the file of correspondence relating to the earlier application, and to re-examine the grounds on which that application was refused. You will find that the objections raised at that time are just as valid now, so that there are no grounds to approve the present application.

Indeed, objections previously raised are even more valid now. You will be aware (Telegraph, 9/12/2000; cutting attached) that parents are being urged to restrict their children's use of mobile phones due to possible health hazards, as yet unquantified.

The likely hazards of transmitters and mobile phone masts have similarly not been quantified. But real hazards to health could well be presented by mast similar to that proposed by Orange.

Now, as a parent I can control my daughters' use of mobile phones. I cannot, however, shield

them from possible dangers were Orange allowed to place this mast in our road, a residential area.

As a scientist, I am well aware that it can take years or even decades to prove conclusively that dangers to our childrens' health are real (eg. the link between smoking and lung cancer; the BSE crisis). Only a fool or a person having a strong vested interest would state categorically that mobile phone masts present no health hazards when situated in residential areas.

I would remind you that the proposed site of this Orange mast is used as a meeting point for children from Waingels School (including my own 14 year old), and that railway enthusiasts congregate near the bridge to take photos. Young children are also brought to the area to watch the trains go by.

A second reason for objection is based on aesthetic grounds (please refer to my letter written earlier this year. The pleasant view of the Sonning Golf Course as seen from Duffield Road and Copse Mead would be ruined by a monstrous mobile phone mast. Leaving aside any arguments based on likely health hazards, this second reason is sufficient in itself for the application to be rejected.

I urge you therefore to consign this present application to the waste paper basket, where it belongs. I am amazed at the audacity of

this French Company. Do they really think that we are so preoccupied with Christmas preparations that we will not notice this sly re-application.

Yours sincerely,

Brian Snell.

THE DAILY TELEGRAPH SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2000

Parents are urged to cut children's use of mobiles

By David Derbyshire
Science Correspondent

PARENTS should limit their children's use of mobile phones in case a health problem emerges in years to come, the Government urged yesterday.

The possible health risks of mobiles are to be highlighted in a £7 million scheme in which more than a million leaflets will be sent to post offices, shops and libraries.

An inquiry, led by Sir William Stewart, the former chief scientific adviser, concluded that there was no evidence of a health threat but said use by children should be limited as a precaution.

The leaflet drop was disclosed as part of the Health Department's research programme into the potential health effects of phones and transmitters.

Details of an audit of base stations to assess radiation emission, starting with those near school buildings, were also announced.

Prof Liam Donaldson, the Chief Medical Officer, said: "It is essential that we provide people with the evidence on the issue to allow them to make an informed choice about using their mobile phones."

The new leaflet states: "The balance of current research evidence suggests that exposures to radio waves below levels set out in international guidelines do not cause health problems for the general population.

"However, there is some evidence that changes in brain activity can occur below these guidelines, but it isn't clear why. There are significant gaps in our scientific knowledge."

Anyone concerned about the potential, if unproven, risk should keep their calls short and consider buying a less powerful phone.

Young people are encouraged to use mobiles for essential purposes only, and to keep calls short. Experts regard children as being at special risk because they have thin skulls and a developing immune system.

The leaflets signal a U-turn over hands-free kits. The Department of Trade and Industry had said the kits could reduce radiation exposure but, after a series of conflicting studies, including two by the Consumers Association that found that kits increased emission to parts of the brain, their effectiveness was seen as uncertain. From next year, mobile phones will carry a label showing how much energy they emit.

Half of the £7 million research fund will come from the mobile phone industry.

Penny Young, a Consumers' Association director, said: "The Government's adoption of the precautionary principle represents a sea change in the communication of risk and is to be applauded."

The Federation of the Electronics Industry (FEI), which represents mobile phone manufacturers, said customer health and safety was a "priority".

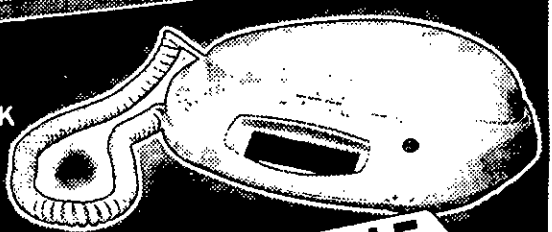
A spokesman said: "The precautionary approach recommended by the Stewart Report and endorsed by the Government is based on a 'risk of a risk', and parents will need to weigh up a number of considerations when making choices about their children's mobile phone use.

"These include the security benefits provided by parents being able to stay in touch with their children."

The FEI said mobiles used with or without a hands-free kit "meet relevant radio frequency exposure guidelines".

Britain's Biggest Range to Choose From

Up to **Half Price** phones



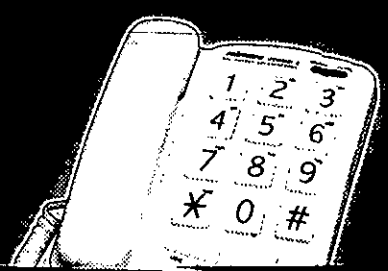
GEEMARC
ALARM CLOCK PHONE
- Last number redial
- Snooze feature
- Battery back-up for clock/alarm

Model: MELBOURNE Was £17.99

HALF PRICE

THE LINK PRICE

£8.99



BINATONE
HANDS-FREE SPEAKER PHONE
- Extra large buttons
- 10 number memory

Model: SPEAKEASY 2

District Planning Officer
Wokingham District Council
Shute End
WOKINGHAM
Berkshire
RG40 1WR

11th December 2000

For the Attention of Joss Miller/John Mitchell

Planning Application Reference TL/2000/2871
8 metre Telecommunication mast with three directional antennae.

Dear Sir/Madam

We wish to register an objection to this application for a telecommunication mast. The reasons for our objection are as follows:

1. Planning Policy

(a) The proposal appears to conflict with Wokingham's precautionary principle of not siting this mast within 60 metres of of places where people spend long periods. Our house and properties in nearby Highfield Close fall within this limit.

(b) This week (W/C 4th December) Government gave notice that full planning permission for the installation of mobile phone masts will be required in the near future.

(c) The white site notice displayed on a lamp post adjacent to our property by the agents acting for Orange states that objections/comments should be forwarded to Wokingham District Council by the 9th September 1999. The notice signature is dated 29th November 2000.

2. Effect On Neighbouring Property

The siting of such a mast adjacent to residential properties is not in keeping with the general amenity of the area. Orange state that the mast will out of direct view of any housing. We would contend that it will be in direct view from our house and garden. It is also in the sight line of some houses in Highfield Close.

3. Traffic Hazard

We would contend that (a) when exiting from Copse Mead the mast can restrict a view of traffic coming from the right over the railway bridge (b) any additional contractors vehicles and equipment (we already have frequent visits from Railtrack and the Electricity Board to the site) will make an existing dangerous location for pedestrians and vehicles even worse.

4. Safety Issues

(a) Orange state that Health and safety is not a reason that can be used for refusal of prior approval. Stockton Borough Council in October 1999 refused permission to allow two antennae at two sites in their area for Orange on health and safety grounds contrary to their planning officers' advice.

(b) We would contend that a combination of low frequency sources (Electricity sub station) and high frequency sources (the existing Railtrack antenna plus the proposed Orange mast) would increase radiated energy levels and should be evaluated by an independent expert.

(c) We have evidence that another mobile phone company (One to One) uses the concept of exclusion zones around celluar base stations, with suitable warning signage, to ensure that no worker or member of the general public is exposed to radio frequency radiation above recommended investigation levels. They further state that under normal conditions no one should be permitted to enter an exclusion zone whilst the transmitting antennas are operational. This exclusion zone is considered to be a box that extends 4.3 metres directly in front of the antenna. We contend that the planned location of this mast cannot be contained within this exclusion zone because it is adjacent to a public road and footpath.

(e) This week (W/C 4th December) the Government has advised that use of mobile phones should be limited as far as possible especially in relation to use by children thereby raising the unknown safety issues yet again.

5. Other Issues

(a) Orange state that the application is for a microcell antennae. Our understanding is that this unit operates typically in a very localised proximity. One third of the radius from this antennae will be over Sonning Golf Club grounds.

(b) Orange also state that "it will improve coverage including building coverage and call capacity in the surrounding area". From discusssion with neighbours who currently use the Orange system there appears to be no apparent loss of signal.

(c) We would suggest that this application is solely to enhance signals for railway users, Sonning Cutting presumably creating a dead spot. Perhaps a more suitable location for this antenna could be found on the railway embankment away from local housing.

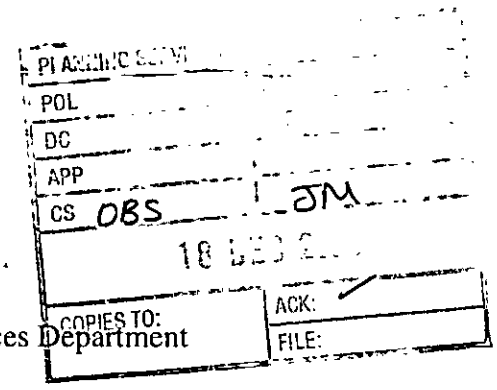
Yours faithfully

Mr. R.E. Ayling
1 Copse Mead
Woodley
READING
Berkshire
RG5 4RP

Mrs. F.S. Ayling

Telephone 0118 9694647

c.c. Woodley Town Council
Terry Dredge
Coling Lawley
David Tindall



Greenacre
35 Copse Mead
Woodley
Berks
RG5 4RP

Environmental Services Department
Planning Services
PO Box 157
Shute End
Wokingham
Berks
RG40 1WR

15 December 2000

Attn. Ms Miller

Dear Ms Miller,

Planning Application TL/2000/2871 Radio Mast, Duffield Road, Woodley

I wish to object to the application by Orange to erect a mobile phone mast immediately adjacent to residential property in Duffield Road, Woodley.

My concerns, detailed below, are based upon the proximity of the mast to residential property, and the likelihood of Orange wishing to operate this basestation at higher powers to accommodate new systems.

1) Orange plc were recently successful in gaining a 3rd generation mobile licence. These 3rd generation systems will run alongside the current GSM/PCS systems resulting in a significantly increased level of radiation from these types of mast. No mention of this inevitable expansion is made in the application.

2) The Department of Trade and Industry have stated that they are considering allowing or requiring mobile operators to share masts in order to reduce the burden on the environment and to ease the rollout of new operators. This is particularly relevant as one of the 3rd generation licencees is a new operator who may, as a result of DTI policy, have a right to use the mast of an existing operator. It is therefore possible that this site could expand to add a third, or maybe even a fourth basestation, each with additional antennae and a tripling or quadrupling of the total radiation.

3) The proposed location of the mast is some 20 metres from the adjacent residential property. Taking into account both the proposed mast height of 8 metres, and the normal downward tilt of the antennae, the radiation will be at a maximum at bedroom height in the adjacent homes. The radiation from basestations is continuous and increases as the number of simultaneous calls handled by the basestation increases. Residents close to the mast would therefore be subjected to constant exposure to the radiation from this mast.

4) The applicant's agent quotes selectively from the recent Stewart Report, "Mobile Phones and Health". I draw your attention to some other conclusions and recommendations from that report:

> ***" We conclude therefore that it is not possible at present to say that exposure to RF radiation, even at levels below the national guidelines, is totally without potential adverse health effects, and that gaps in knowledge are sufficient to justify a precautionary approach."*** (Para 1.19)
> This conclusion recognises that insufficient research has been carried to date, and that there is yet no proof that the precautionary limits are themselves safe.
>
> ***" We recommend the establishment of clearly defined physical exclusion zones around base station antennas, ..."*** (Para 1.44)
> The position of the proposed mast precludes the construction of any exclusion zone, positioned as it is immediately adjacent to the highway. I also draw your attention to the recent WDC initiative "safe routes to school" which recognises this as an access route to Waingels, and Willowbank schools. Children will pass within 2 metres of this mast.

I note, from reports in the local paper earlier this year, that WDC is considering a 60 metre minimum separation between mobile phone masts and residential property. I think this is highly commendable policy.

Whilst I am not against mobile phone masts in general, I believe their siting in residential areas close to homes is inadvisable for the reasons stated above.

I hope you will take these concerns into account and refuse permission for this development.

Yours sincerely

P.D.Rose B.Eng, C.Eng, FIEE

Willow Bank Junior School Association
Duffield Road
Woodley
Berks
RG5
18th December 2000

Joss Miller
Environmental Services Dept
PO Box 157
Wokingham District Council
Shute End
Wokingham
RG40 1WR

PLANNING SERVICES	HPT
POL	TLS
DC	ENF
APP	
CS OBS	JKM
21 DEC 2000	
COPIES TO:	ACK:
	FILE:

Ref: Planning Application TL/2000/2871- Orange PCS Ltd.

Dear Joss

As Chair of the Association representing Parents and Carers of children at Willow Bank Junior School, I should like you to consider the following.

I write, with much concern, regarding the above application for planning, to erect a Cellular Radio Mast at Copse Mead in Woodley. You will be aware of the publicity surrounding such apparatus, and the inconclusive scientific studies, which have followed, relating to the possible harmful emissions from microwave signals. Although not proven without doubt, there is enough conjecture to cause the government to produce guidelines relating to the use of Mobile Phones by children, over a specified number of minutes.

In the light of this situation, please bear in mind the proximity of the proposed device to both Willow Bank Junior and Infant Schools, in Duffield Road, Woodley.

Furthermore, we believe that The Council rejected a similar request in March of this year, with yet another request from BT Cellnet for a similar Mast adjacent to Sonning Golf Club was also rejected in July of this year. Please confirm what has changed during this time, for The Council to be considering this current application.

It is therefore our opinion that, due to the health questions stated above and the absence of conclusive proof to the contrary, that we must formally object to Wokingham District Council providing Planning Permission to Orange PCS Ltd for such equipment.

Yours truly,

Solbjorg Olsen

Mrs S Olsen
Chairman,
Willow Bank Junior School Association

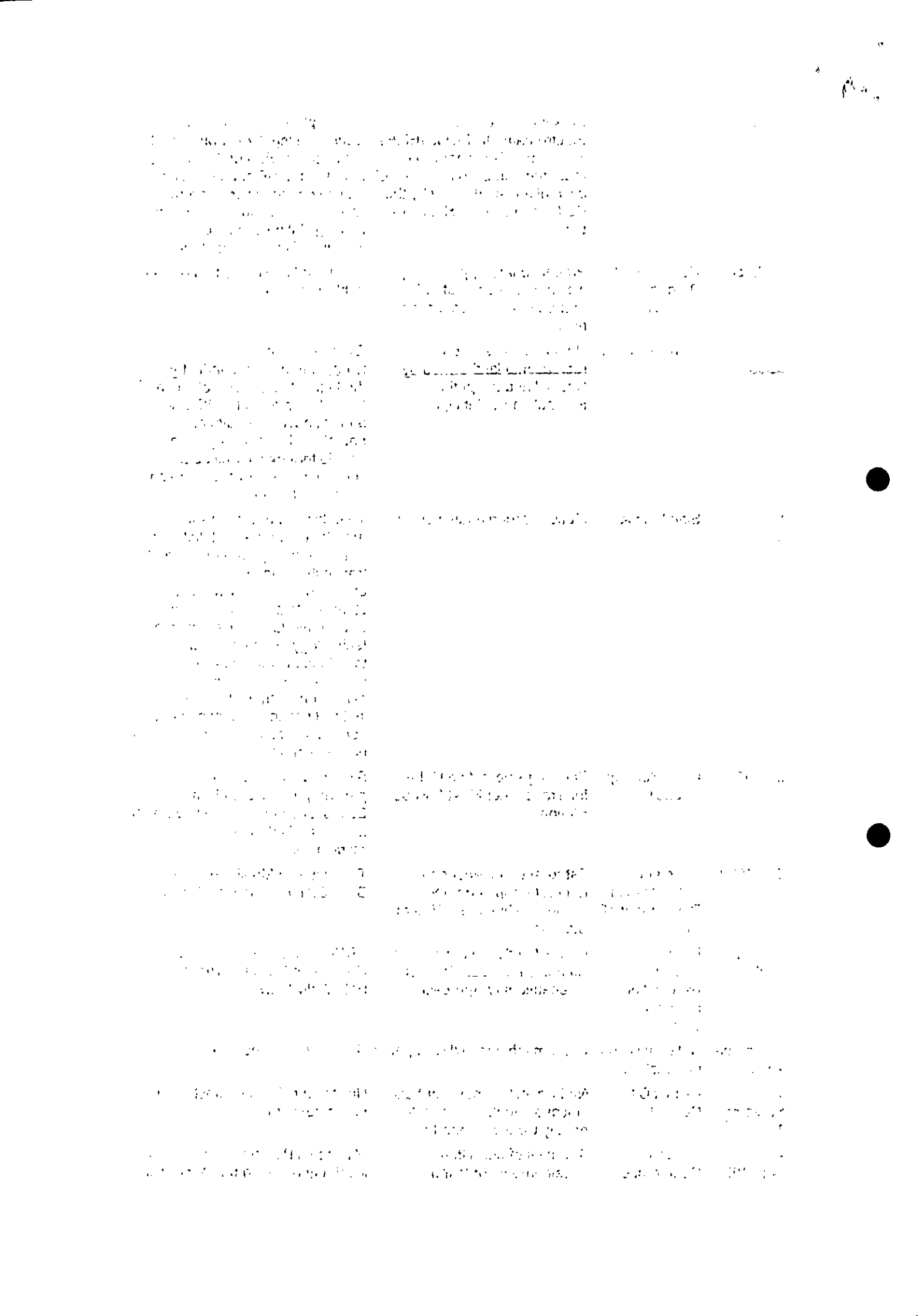
Countersigned,

Mr G Forster
Head Teacher,
Willow Bank Junior School

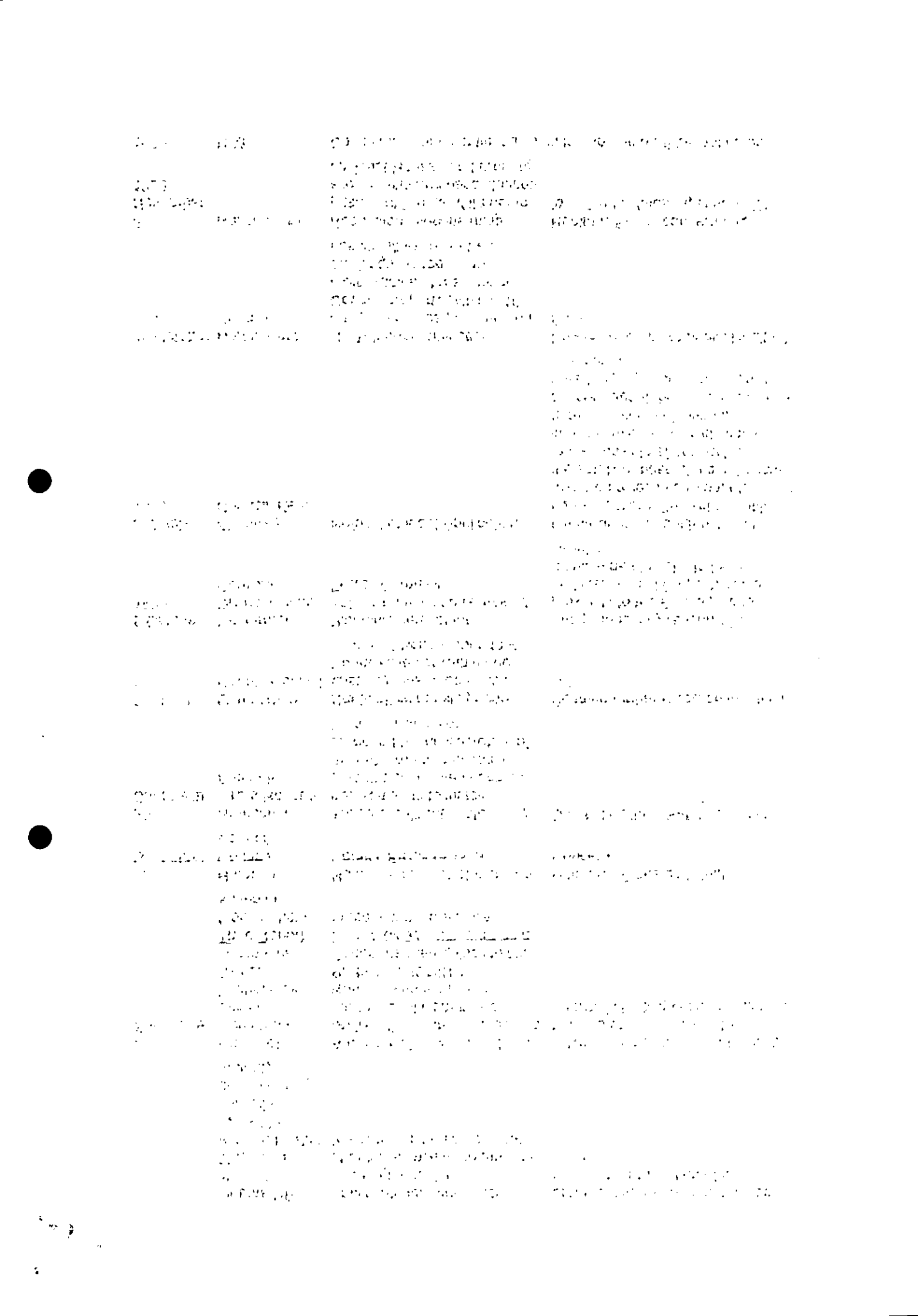
Policy Decisions

Date	Authority	Policy or Decision	Reasons
7 January 1997	Great Yarmouth Borough Council	Pending more definite advise from the regulatory agencies, Environmental Health & Services Committee recommend to other Service Committees that where installation of these masts is discussed that a 'precautionary' policy be initiated or that towers and masts are sited as far from sensitive properties, e.g. houses, hospitals, schools etc.	Council passed this resolution following the analysis and the uncertainty of the information available to them - Serious research seems to be lacking and that which has been carried out appears contradictory, inconclusive and leaves the public to conclude that perhaps there may be "something in it".
29 January 1997	Warwick District Council	RESOLVED that because of doubts about the health effects and the considerable opposition by residents to recent applications, the Committee as a matter of policy rejects any proposals from mobile phone companies to put antennas, microwave dishes and other telecommunications equipment on any dwellings owned by Warwick District Housing Department.	The Council adopt a precautionary approach to potential health hazards from environmental electromagnetic fields to have the effect of seeking to discourage any development or other works that may result in significant environmental exposure
11 March 1998	Harborough District Council	Pending more definite advice from the regulatory agencies, Environment Committee recommend to other Service Committees that where installation of telecommunication towers or mast is discussed that a 'precautionary' policy be initiated or that towers and masts are sited as far from sensitive properties, e.g. houses, hospitals, schools etc	The Head of Environmental Services writes to the Minister for Public Health to express this Committee's concerns over the perceived public health risks from telecommunication towers and masts and to request that detailed research is undertaken to investigate these risks
December 1998	S.D.L.P. Social Democratic & Labour Party	Confirm they are actively pursuing a policy of 'prudent avoidance' i.e. 500 metre buffer zone, and they were fully supportive of NIFATT in their efforts to get this implemented Province wide.	
4 January 1999	Newry & Mourne Council	The Council adopt a 500 metre buffer zone in relation to the erection of telecommunication masts in the Newry & Mourne Area.	Due to unknown risks and public concern
12 Februarv	Staffordshire County Council	Issue Press Release 'Urging Govt. to carrv out research	Councillor John Wakefield said: "The circular is verv brief and not

1999		work into the effects of Electromagnetic Fields (EMFs) The Council's call for more research comes in the wake of a circular issued jointly by the DETR and Dept of Health to planners..	very explicit in explaining the health issues arising. We strongly feel, especially in view of the increased number of EMF sources such as mobile phone towers, that more research needs to be done and that legislation should be introduced in the light of this."
9 March 1999	Newtownards Borough Council	Precautionary Approach by way of buffer zone of 200 metres from homes, schools & hospitals	Due to unknown health risks and public concern.
29 March 1999	Medip Council	No masts allowed on recreational land owned by Council and adopt the Precautionary Principle.	'Ensure that the telecommunications industry afford the highest levels of protection of the public in the MENDIP area against adverse health or potentially harmful long-term effects that may result as a consequence of exposure to emfs from mobile phone equipment.'
8 May 1999	Sinn Fein Ard Fheis	Motion carried unanimously.	That this Ard Fheis calls for a moratorium on the installation of further mobile phone masts and transmitters pending comprehensive and independent studies into all the health and environmental implications into this technology. Sinn Fein commends the stance taken by local communities who have campaigned against these installations in the absence of the necessary assurances concerning possible health risks.
May 1999	Wyre Borough Council	Planning Application Refusal for Transmitter Mast & Base Station	Site unsuitable given its close proximity to a nearby Primary School and houses which were 190 metres and 40 metres away respectively
July 1999	Minister of Public Health Department of Health	Established Independent Expert Group under the Chairmanship of Sir William Stewart	To advise on Mobile Phones and Base Stations and Health & Safety.
12 August 1999	Local Government Association of England & Wales	Issues Guidance to its Local Authority Members to Adopt "Precautionary Approach"	NRPB Guidance - "based upon Conclusive Scientific Proof Potentially Flawed."
September 1999	National Union of Teachers	Confirms that the NUT supports the position of the LGA	
1 September 1999	Belfast City Council	No transmitter masts or base stations should be permitted on any Council property	Unknown risks and substantial public concern
20 Sept.199	Lib/Dem Conference	Removal of permitted development rights from	Ministerial Planning guidance to local authorities to be changed in



	Debate REF No. F19 Motion put forward by Phil Willis MP carried by an overwhelming majority.	applicants for such masts, ensuring that all new structures have to go through the normal planning process.	order to give more control to local people over the siting of such masts.
22 Sept.1999	House of Commons Science & Technology Select Committee - Third Report - Mobile Phones & Health	Amongst 12 recommendations (a) The Government adopt the International Commission on Non-Ionising Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) Recommended guidelineimits for microwave exposure as a precautionary measure	ICNIRP Guideline Safety Limits 5 times lower than NRPB 1993 Thermal Heating Guidance Levels.
23 Sept.1999	Hampshire Country Council	No masts or base stations on Council Buildings or land	Unknown Risks and Public Concern
29 Sept.1999	Hampshire Fire & Rescue Authority	That the authority defers any new requests to install antenna on its sites pending the outcome of monitoring proposed by the Secretary of State for Education.	Due to Health & Safety concerns.
September 1999	Oxfordshire County Council	Not to allow mobile phone base stations at Schools or Council sites or within 200 metres of School boundaries.	Pending further research into their safety
5 October 1999	Restormel District Council Cornwall	Planning Refusal for Telecommunications mast at Fowey Cornwall	The proposal by reason of its proximity to the Primary School and Residential Property could result in health risks to local peoples
5 October 1999	Shepway Council, Kent	Refusal of Mast Application	On grounds of health risk and public concern 'Current scientific research gives rise to doubts about the safety of base stations because of the possible effects of low intensity microwave radiation on human health and given the public concern about the issue in the local area the proposal is considered unacceptable.'
14 October 1999	Hart District Council	No Telecommunication equipment to be permitted on Council property within a 100 metre radius of residential dwellings, schools and hospitals/health centres	Due to concerns of public Health & Safety
6 November 1999	National Trust	Resolution overwhelming passed at Trusts AGM not to allow masts and base stations on Trust Houses and property	Health & Safety concerns Votes for: 97,529 Votes Against: 7,765
1999	H.M.	Consultation and continued consideration on draft Guidance on	

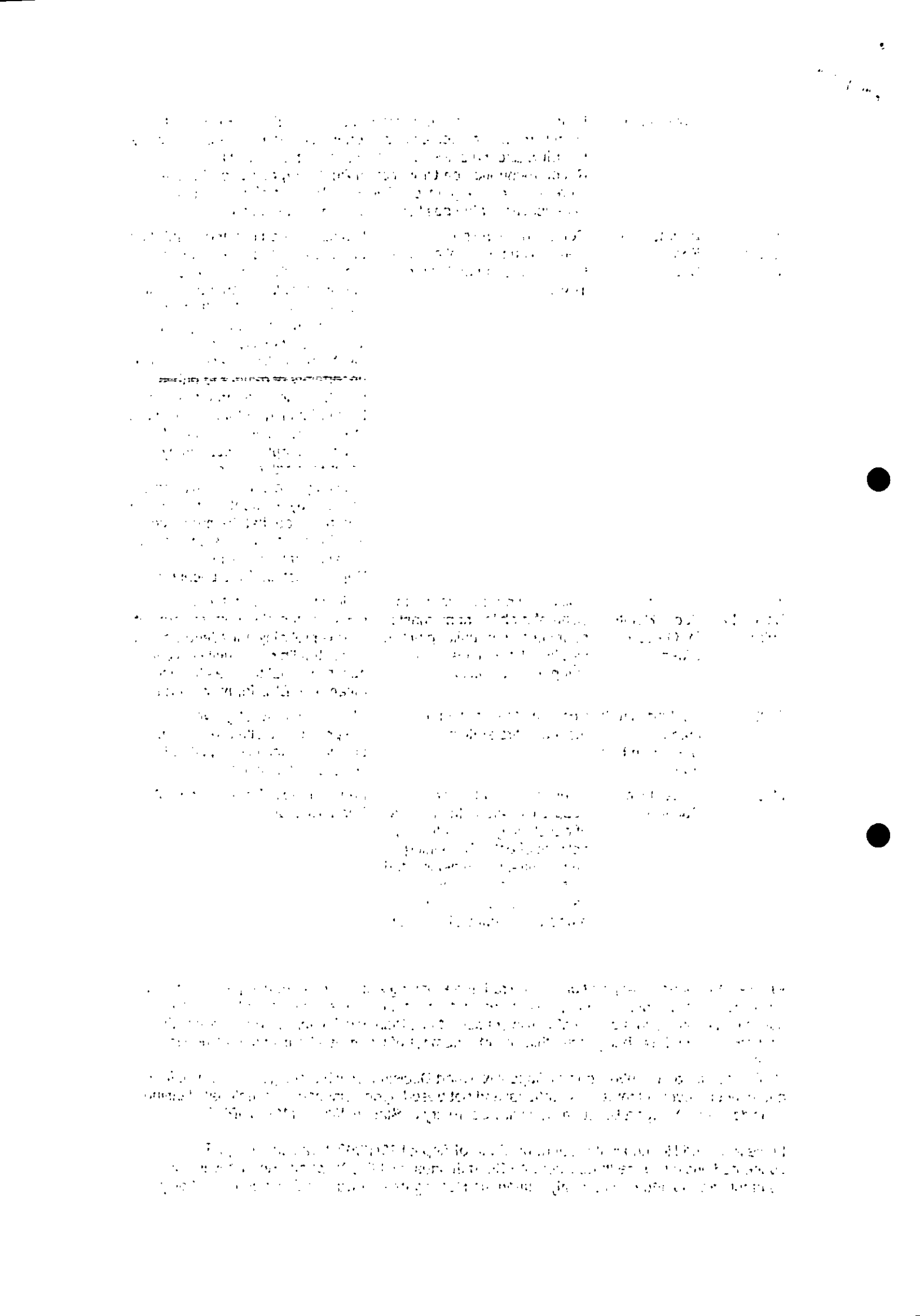


	Government	Land Use Planning and electromagnetic Fields (EMFGS0). The Draft Circular includes a section on the Health Effects of Exposure to EMFS and indicates, as is the case that a draft EU Recommendation on Limitation of Public Exposure to EMFS is currently under negotiation. The Final Version of the Circular will take account of the position reached in the negotiation.	
22 November 1999	Bournemouth Borough Council	Refusal of Planning Permission for Installation of 3 Celinet Antenna on Water Tower	It is considered that the installation of three antenna in addition to those already in use on this building would, given the current concern for public health issues surrounding long term exposure to low levels of this type of electromagnetic radiation, result in uncertainty of danger to public health to such a degree that the Local Planning Authority considers that the precautionary principle must be adopted. Accordingly, having regard to the close proximity of a children's playground and nearby residential properties, it is considered that the proposed development would be contrary to the aims of Policy 5.11 of the Deposit District Wide Local Plan.
17 November 1999	Director of Public Health for Greater Glasgow	Calls for a moratorium on the siting of mobile phone masts near schools or built-up areas pending the findings of an independent inquiry.	"Adopting a view that there is no evidence that these masts are not safe is probably not adequate. The public health community is very conscious that this was the line taken over BSE for many years."
1999	Bedfordshire & Luton Combined Fire Authority	Postpone the sighting of a mast at a fire station.	'Until further investigative work into the possible health effects of masts on school sites is completed by the Dept. of Education.'
98/99	14 Scottish Councils	Councils have already adopted, or are in the process of developing, precautionary policies effectively banning phone masts from being sited on schools, and in some cases, on other Council properties in populated areas.	Further details from: Friends of the Earth, Scotland

Where a full planning application in required, the Planning Authority can refuse permission for any reason which would normally be allowed under planning law, and this includes potential public health risk, and the level of public concern. Most Planning Authorities do not know this vital point, which has changed the thinking of a number of Councils about 'unknown health risks'*

(*) This refers to the 1998 Court of Appeal Newport Decision, which state 'genuine public fear and concern, even if that fear is irrational and not based upon evidence, is a material planning consideration'. Newport Borough Council v Secretary of State of Wales (1998) JPL 337

In the Al Fayed Hearing in the Supreme Court of Appeal 15/12/99 it was stated by all concerned, including the three Supreme Court Judges, that this Newport decision was now common ground. More importantly, during the Hearing itself, it was made clear that not only



were planning decisions necessarily taken locally, but the Planning Inspectorate itself needed to take that point clearly into account. Accordingly, the Planning Inspectorate is also bound by, or at least covered by, the Newport 1997 decision as now confirmed in the Al Fayed December 1999 decision.

PLANNING SERVICES
POL
DC
APP
HPT
TLS
ENF
JKM
OBS
19 DEC 2000
COPY TO:

9 Copse Mead,
Woodley
Reading
RG5 4RP.

15-12-2000

Joss Miller
Planning Services
Wokingham.

Dear Sir Re Application no. TL/2000/2871

I wish to record my objections to the above mentioned planning application.

1/ Such a mast would be an eyesore in a pleasant residential area.

2 It could lead to a reduction in nearby property values.

3/ Its proximity to houses would create an additional health hazard from radiation to residents & also to children who pass by on their way to Willow Bank & Waingels Copse schools.

4 The site already contains an electricity sub station & a Rail VHF transmitting station, both contributing to emissions in this area.

I suggest that the applicant seeks permission to site the mast in the open fields nearby.

Yours faithfully,

M. J. Hayhoe.

PLANNING SERV. UNIT	
POL	TCS
DC	
APP	
CS OBS	JM
18 DEC 2000	
COPIES TO:	ACK: ✓
	FILE:

Lena & Allen Hardcastle
Copse House 18A.
Copse Mead
Woodley
Reading
RG5 4RP
~~01734~~-969515

12.12.2000

Dear Sir,

Planning Application TL/2000/2871

I wish to oppose the erection of an 8m telecommunications pole, 3 directional antennae and equipment cabinet proposed by Orange PCS Ltd for the end of Copse Mead adjacent to No 1.

The reasons being the same as were made last March when the first application was refused to Orange:

1. The route is used by Waingels Copse school children
2. This is a high density residential area.
3. We already suffer noise pollution by

the railway close by.

④. The radio activity generated is detrimental to health.

⑤. The mast is unsightly & would devalue the property in North Woodley.

⑥ There are several other areas of industrial output in Woodley which would be far more suitable for siting of this mast.

I hope this planning application will be refused as it was last time

Yours faithfully

Hardcastle

MR & MRS HARDCASTLE

26 COPSE MEAD,

WOODLEY

Reading

R654RP.

Planning Application

PLANNING SERVICES
POL
DC
APP
TL/2000/2871
ENF
16/12/00
Dear Mr Miller, JKM
19 DEC 2000
COPIES TO OBS
ACK:
FILE

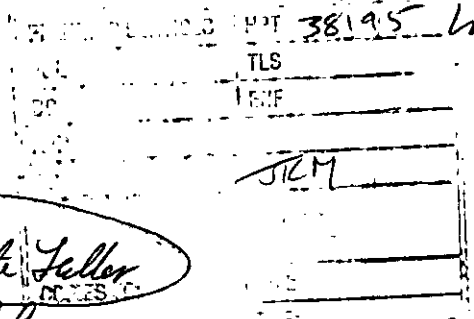
I am writing to voice my opposition to the proposal by BT Cellnet to erect an 8m telecommunications pole at the end of Copse Mead. It is clear from all the evidence available so far that the effects on human health of these masts is uncertain. In view of this, the precautionary principle must be applied and the application for a pole in this residential area should be rejected.

Yours sincerely

Geoff Squire (G. SQUIRE).

JOSS MILLER

2 8 Duffield Rd
Woodley
Reading
RG5 4EN
19.12.00



Dear Kate Feller

Please can you advise me, why planning gain was not obtained when the Conference centre/Hotel complex was enlarged a few years ago, & the Golf club in Sonning Parish; to part fund some improvements in the Sonning part of Duffield Rd.

Yours Faithfully

M Johnson

Mr & Mrs D. JOHNSON

Applicationo	Name & Address
TL/2000/2871	Mr & Mrs Riley 3 Highcliffe Close Woodley Reading RG5 4RE
TL/2000/2871	R ~~Aldron~~ WALDRON 33 Copse Mead Woodley RG5 4RP
TL/2000/2871	Mr & Mrs R Ayling 1 Copse Mead Woodley RG5 4RP
TL/2000/2871	E & A Rumble 14 Highcliffe close Woodley RG5 4RE
TL/2000/2871	Mr & Mrs J Reeve 36 Copse Mead Woodley RG5 4RP
TL/2000/2871	Mr & Mrs J & D Dow 29 Duffield road Woodley RG5 4RL
TL/2000/2871	M & C Evans 18c Copse mead Woodley RG5 4RP
TL/2000/2871	MR. B Snell 38 Copse Mead Woodley RG5 4RP
TL/2000/2871	Dr & Mrs C Hughes St nicholas 18b Copse Mead Woodley RG5 4RP
TL/2000/2871	K Clarkson 12 Copse mead Woodley RG5 4RP
TL/2000/2871	Mr & Mrs N Davidson Applecote 1 Highclife Close Woodley RG5 4RE

TL/2000/2871 Mr S Bland
15 Highcliffe Close
Woodley
RG5 4RE

TL/2000/2871 Dr D & Mrs H Tindall
The Shieling
25 Copse mead
Woodley
RG5 4RP

TL/2000/2871 N Drake-field Lewis
8 Highciffe Close
Woodley
RG5 4RE

TL/2000/2871 R J Wade
Little gables
27 Copse Mead
Woodley
RG5 4RP

TL/2000/2871 Mr & Mrs R Ayling
1 Copse Mead
Woodley
RG5 4RP
duplicated

TL/2000/2871 Dr D Tindall & Petition
The Shieling
25 Copse Mead
Woodley
RG5 4RP

TL/2000/2871 M J Hayhoe
9 Copse Mead
Woodley
RG5 4RP

TL/2000/2871 G Squire
26 Copse Mead
Woodley
RG5 4 RP

TL/2000/2871 Mr & Mrs Reeves
33 Duffield Road
Woodley
RG5 4RL

TL/2000/2871 Mr M Bingham
20 Copse Mead
Woodley
RG5 4RP

TL/2000/2871 P D Rose
Greenacre
35 Copse Mead
Woodley
RG5 4RP

TL/2000/2871 Mr. M Ayerst
6 Highcliffe Close
RG5 4RE

TL/2000/2871 Mrs A Lavell
14 Copse mead
Woodley
RG5 4RP

TL/2000/2871 Mr & Mrs Hardcastle
18a Copse House
Copse Mead
RG5 4RL

TL/2000/2871 Mrs M Carter + Miss A.
16 Highcliffe Close
Woodley
RG5 4RE

TL/2000/2871 Mrs S Olsen + Mr G Forster.
Willow Bank Primary School
Duffield Road
Woodley
RG5

App. refused
Letter sent 16/01/01

Mr + Mrs D Johnson
8 Duffield Rd.
Woodley
RG5 4RN.

* * * COMMUNICATION RESULT REPORT (5.DEC.2000 18:08) * * *

TTI WDC PLAN&TRANSPORT

FILE	MODE	OPTION	ADDRESS (GROUP)	RESULT	PAGE
393	MEMORY TX		901895821214	OK	P. 1/1

REASON FOR ERROR
E-1) HANG UP OR LINE FAIL
E-2) BUSY
E-3) NO ANSWER
E-4) NO FACSIMILE CONNECTION

Tel. 0118 974 6463 (Direct Line)

Date. 5 December 2000

My ref. JM/MLT/TL/2000/2871

Your ref.

Mr P Fitzgerald
Patrick Farfan Associates Ltd
Unit C Quay West
Salamander Quay
Park Lane
Harefield
Middlesex
UB9 6NZ

Environmental Services Department
Planning Services
P.O. Box 157
Shute End, Wokingham
Berkshire RG40 1WR
Tel: (0118) 974 6000
Fax: (0118) 974 6484
Minicom No: (0118) 977 8909
DX: 33506 – Wokingham
E-mail:

Dear Mr Fitzgerald,

RE: PROPOSED ERECTION OF 8 METRE HIGH TELECOMMUNICATIONS POLE WITH THREE DIRECTIONAL ANTENNAE AND EQUIPMENT CABINET AT LAND ADJACENT TO DUFFIELDS BRIDGE, DUFFIELD ROAD, WOODLEY. (TL/2000/2871)

I refer to your notification for the erection of an 8 metre high telecommunications pole with three directional antennae and equipment cabinet.

I write to formally advise you that the Local Planning Authority requires prior approval of this scheme, in view of its proximity to residential properties.

I would be grateful if you could advise me in writing within ten days of this letter if you are able to revise the scheme and resite it to an alternative location, which would be significantly further away from any sensitive issues.

Yours sincerely

MLT

MIKE THORP
Principal Development Control Officer

42 DAYS

WOKINGHAM D.C. DEVELOPMENT CONTROL

Start date: 30 NOV 2000	
Officer: JM	Application No. TL/2000/2871

Map No. ..... Site .....
Easting: ..... Flood Pln .....
Northing: ..... Mineral .....

Level: ☐ **Sub Committee** ☑ **Delegated** ☐ **Sec. State**
☐ **Incorrect Fee** ☐ **Invalid** ☐ **PD**

Description:
(TL) PROPOSED ERECTION OF 8M HIGH TELECOMMUNICATIONS POLE WITH 3 DIRECTIONAL ANTENNAE AND EQUIPMENT CABINET

Location: ADJOINING ~~RAILWAY~~ Puffields Bridge, DUFFIELD ROAD

Parish: WOODLEY Ward: Coronation 1.12.2000

Applicant: ORANGE PCS LTD

Fee Received 35-00 Required ..... Additional ..... Refund .....

Enforcement Section (9) to be notified ☐ tick if required

Additional information required for validation

		Reason	Requested	Received
1	1:2500 OS location plan showing property edged in blue/red			
2	1:500 block plan showing existing & proposed dev. + adj. Properties			
3	Forms unsigned			
4	Correct S 66 certificate			
5	Elevation plans			
6	Floor plans			
7	Metric scale disclaimer			
8	Encroachment letter			
9	Miscellaneous			

APPLN NO. _____

ACTION REQUIRED BY DEVELOPMENT CONTROL

Conservation Area .....

Listed Building 1 2 2*

Advertisement Required .....

Date Site Notice Sent : 1.12.2000 Parish Council Informed - YES / NO

INTERNAL CONSULTATIONS

Building Control .....
Landscape .....
Trees .....
Conservation Officer .....
Environmental Health ✓
Housing .....
Leisure & Cultural services .....
Public Rights of Way .....
Property ✓
District Secretary (only if called in by SOS) .....
Policy & Plans .....
Strategic Planning (JSPU) .....
Minerals (INTERNAL) .....
Archaeological Site (BABTIE) : .....
Education .....
Social Services ✓
Highways .....

EXTERNAL CONSULTATIONS

Adjacent D P A : .....
Adjacent Parish : .....
Southern Electricity Board .....
British Gas .....
PSA Oil Pipeline .....
Transco : .....
Environment Agency .....

Rail Track .....
Police Arch. Liaison Officer .....

HERITAGE BODIES

The Georgian Group .....
Ancient Monuments Society .....
Council for British Arch. .....
RCHME .....
Telecommunications (NRPB) : .....
Sport England : .....

OTHERS:

.....
.....
.....

NEIGHBOURS: See map

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

30·11·2000

TL/2000/2871

Planning Department,
1st Floor
Wokingham District Council,
Shute End,
Wokingham,
Berkshire,
RG40 1WR.

FAO Ms Naomi Dawes.

29 November 2000.

Patrick Farfan
ASSOCIATES LIMITED

Unit C Quay West
Salamander Quay
Park Lane Harefield
Middlesex
UB9 6NZ

Tel 01895 823700
Fax 01895 821214
email-frog@farfan.demon.co.uk

Dear Ms Dawes,

ORANGE PCS Ltd. MICROCELL SITE BRK7033 SONNING.

Notice of intention to install telecommunications apparatus pursuant to:

1. The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 (Schedule 2 Part 24).

2. The licence granted to Orange Personal Communications Limited under Section 7 of the Telecommunications Act 1984.

I confirm that Patrick Farfan Associates Ltd act on behalf of Orange PCS Ltd in submitting this notification.

Orange Personal Communications Services Ltd is a Telecommunications Code System Operator. Under the terms of the licence issued by the DTI, Orange is under an obligation to provide a national telecommunications service and to meet all reasonable customer demands for the provision of that service.

The Orange Network is in direct commercial competition with other communications systems such as BT and cable operators. As a result their customers expect a reasonable level of service within buildings both at home and at work

Orange are sensitive to the fact that many locations do not lend themselves to the siting of Macrocells, commonly Rooftop Stub Masts or 15m high lattice masts or Columns with a 12m^2 fenced compound from a siting and appearance aspect.

With a requirement to provide a service to residential and commercial properties, in keeping with the Code of Best Practice, Orange have taken advantage of improvements in technology to reduce visual impact and developed the Microcell.

Patrick Farfan
ASSOCIATES LIMITED

This is a stand alone steel telegraph pole, mounted antenna. It has been designed to match existing street furniture such as Lampposts,and Electricity supply poles.

However, unlike BT or Cable Operators, Orange do not need to site telegraph poles every 30m or so, they do not need to fly overhead lines or dig up miles of footway and carriageway, to provide a communications connection to every commercial and residential property.

Orange need only deploy two or three carefully sited telegraph poles to provide coverage to an entire residential area, village, business or retail park. The telegraph pole and cabinet can even be painted to match a particular Local Authority colour scheme if required.

I appreciate that this technology is very new and that this method of providing communications is not something that people are used to seeing, however even BT telegraph poles were once not part of the street scene and they are now accepted as the norm.

Orange propose just three Microcell sites to cover the entire Sonning area. This application refers to a grass verge adjacent to the footway near to the junction of Pound Lane and Duffield Road. Further applications for each site will be submitted separately.

Orange Personal Communications Ltd hereby give notice as required under the terms of their Licence and make application for determination with regard to details of siting and appearance pursuant to Part 24, Class A, Condition A.2(4) of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 in respect of the following development:

The erection of a free-standing telegraph pole maximum 8m in height with 3 No directional antenna will be installed.

In conjunction with the above column, an equipment cabinet will also be installed with an overall dimension of 0.94 cubic metres.

Location. OS Grid Ref: 476617 E. 174513 N.

Address. Grass verge, East side, Adjacent to south side of Railway, Duffield Road, Woodley, Reading, RG5 4RP.

Enclosures: Planning Drawing No 30/BRK7033 E/01
Location plan (1:1250)
Site Layout plan (1:250)
Elevations of column and cabinet (1:100 & 1:50)
Annex C from the Code of Best Practice.

Prescribed Fee. £35.00.

Patrick Farfan
ASSOCIATES LIMITED

The location was chosen for the following reasons:

1. It will improve coverage within the surrounding residential areas.
2. The location will maximise coverage and limit the number of installations required.
3. The verge is wide and the siting will not impede pedestrian movements.
4. The location will not encroach into visibility splays of traffic or pedestrian users of the Highway and access roads.
5. The column and cabinet are sited in line with adjacent street furniture so as to blend with the existing street scene.
6. The location is close to the REC power supply and therefore minimise excavation of the Highway.

All communication regarding this notice should be made to myself at the address and telephone number given above,

Yours faithfully,

Paul Fitzgerald
Acquisition Consultant.

30.11.2000

TH/2000/2871

1: Pre-Application Consultation with Local Planning Authority

(i) Licence notification i.e. pre roll out of network Date.....

Name of L.P.A. Contact.....

Phone # of L.P.A. Contact.....

(ii) On sites in specific cell(s) Date....29.11.2000.....

Name of L.P.A. Contact.... .....Naomi Dawes.....

Phone # of L.P.A. contact.....0118 977 8893.....

2A: Name and Address of Applicant

Name... .....Orange PCS Ltd.....

Address: .Floor 2 & 3, Black Arrow House, 2 Chandos Road, London.....

Postcode...NW10 6NF....Tel.....0181 963 4100.....

2B: Agent's Name, Address and Contact

Name...Patrick Farfan Associates Ltd..... .....

Address.Unit "C", Quay West, Salamander Quay, Park Lane Harefield, Middx.

Postcode:..UB9 6NZ.....Tel: ...01895 823700.....

Contact:..Mr Paul Fitzgerald..... Tel:....01895 823700.....

2C: Location of Proposal

Location: Grass verge, East side, Adjacent to south side of Railway, Duffield Road, Woodley, Reading, RG5 4RP.

2D: O.S. Sheet / Grid Reference

Sheet and six figure grid reference of proposed development

Sheet.....Landranger..175 ..... Grid Reference: E 476617 N 174513.....

3: Purpose of Development

To enhance the radio signal to Orange mobile phone users at street level and in buildings where the signal is weak or non existant due to the absorption of the signal from macrocell rooftop sites by buildings in the urban area. To allow customers to operate their handsets without interuptions to their conversations, as could reasonably be expected by phone users.

4: The Proposed Structure *(Enclose a site plan and indicate details of cell boundaries, and whether shared mast / tower or freestanding)*

(i) Type of Structure (e.g. tower, mast etc):...Column.....

.Overall height....8..metres

(ii) Equipment Housing

Street cabinet of overall dimension 0.94 cubic metres.

(iii) Materials (as applicable) Tower / mast etc: type of material and external colour

.....Galvanised steel (Light Aircraft Grey).....

Equipment housing: type of material and external colour

.....Steel,....Midnight Green.....

(iv) Location of and Distance to nearest residential or commercial property (where applicable)
Site is on a main road. Approx 25 mtrs from nearest Private dwelling..

5: Distance from Airfield or Aerodrome (Please tick as appropriate)

Will the structure be within 3 km of an aerodrome or airfield? ..... No.....

Has the CAA or Secretary of State for Defence been notified? ..... No.....

Signed..... Date 28/11/00

On behalf of ORANGE PCS Ltd

30.11.2000

TL/2000/2871

Dear Sir

RE: Enclosed planning application on behalf of Orange PCS Ltd

The Independent Expert Group on Mobile Phones (the Stewart Report) made various recommendation relating to base station sites.

One of the recommendations was that the guidelines for public exposure set by ICNIRP (International Commission on Non-Ionising Radiation Protection) should be adopted for use in the UK.

Orange have welcomed the recommendation that base station sites should comply with the ICNIRP guidelines for public exposure and we believe this will increase public confidence in the safety of transmitter sites.

The Department of Environment, Transport and the Regions have issued guidance to the Local Authorities stating that if a new telecommunications site meets the ICNIRP guidelines then it is not necessary for a Planning Authority processing an application to consider the health effects further.

Therefore the purpose of this letter is to confirm that the Orange site proposed at

BRK7033 **Grass Verge (East Side)**
Adjacent to South Side of Railway
Duffield Road
Woodley
Reading
RG5 4RP

meets the ICNIRP guidelines.

The attached sketch is for reference and gives outputs from a similar microcell to that which is proposed at the location above and relates power levels as a percentage of ICNIRP guidelines.

Yours faithfully,

Paul Fitzgerald