

Proposed new telecom base station in Chenies Parish

As posted on the website recently, the Parish Council has been advised of two proposed possible locations for the relocation of the radio mast presently used by Vodafone and O2 at Stubbs Farm, which will no longer be available following redevelopment.

The first is a joint venture between Vodafone and O2 at Bullscroft Farm, and the second is by O2 for their sole use at Chenies & Latimer Cricket Club (it is understood that Vodafone would still wish to apply to use the first site even if O2 were not on board).

The proposals were discussed at length by Chenies Parish Council at the meeting on 4 March. There were no members of the public present. The conclusion was that whilst the Parish Council does not welcome any radio base station the need for such installations is understood. In the circumstances, it is felt that the site at Bullscroft Farm is to be preferred – it is no closer to the village than the present mast at Stubbs Farm and is not in close proximity to any residential dwellings.

The Parish Council will strongly oppose any planning application based on the plans as presently outlined to the Council for a mast at the Cricket Club on the grounds that the height, scale and appearance of the proposed mast are detrimental to the village environment, situated as it is in a Conservation Area.

Concerns have also been expressed about the perceived possible health risks, and although the balance of evidence indicates that there is no general risk to the health of people living near to base stations, it is thought insensitive to site a mast so close to residential dwellings until such time as it can be proved categorically that there is no risk, when other alternative sites are available. It should however be noted that when responding to any such planning application the Parish Council is only able to comment on the visual impact of any proposed mast (as is Chiltern District Council when making its decision).

At this stage these proposals are only consultations, and no formal planning applications have been made. If anyone would like any further information, or to see the plans, please contact the Clerk, Kathryn Le Neve Foster, on 01923 284659 or at cheniesparishcouncil@hotmail.co.uk

5 March 2009