



From Charles Royden  
Brickhill Borough Councillor

Mark Fitzpatrick  
Chair of Brickhill Parish Council

## FOCUS SPECIAL

### Proposed 11.8m Vodafone and O2 telecommunications mast on Avon Drive and associated equipment cabinet. Application number 10/02091/TELPN

<http://www.portal.bedford.gov.uk/internet/environment/planning/planning%20applications/plans%202010/10%202000%20-%202999/10%2002000%20-%2002099>

Dear Resident

Vodafone and O2 are proposing to locate a telecommunications mast near your home, on the verge in Avon Drive opposite the entrance to the garage on the same side of the road as William Harpur House. The mast will support 6 antennas and be located about two metres from the road. Many residents have expressed to us their strong opposition to this proposal and we are concerned that the mast is close to residential properties including bungalows and Sir William Harpur House a residential care home for the elderly.

Vodafone has persisted with planning applications in Brickhill in spite of continued opposition from residents. It is imperative that we continue our campaign and ensure that planning permission is not granted in the face of local residents stated objections. Local Liberal Democrat Councillors are committed to ensuring that this case is brought before the full planning committee and we will support residents who do not wish to see this located adjacent to the homes.

In the meantime, the most important way in which you can contribute is to write a letter of objection to the Planning Officer at Bedford Borough Council. The grounds upon which the objections are made should be such that they fall within the criteria judged to be valid. Specifically, **fear of associated health risks are not considered** to be suitable grounds for objection.

#### **Please make the following observations in your letters of opposition**

1. The proposed mast is in close proximity to a residence for vulnerable elderly persons.
2. The proposal would produce an unsightly visual intrusion in the street scene. The mast will be of a considerable height (higher than a street lamp 10m), and it will be located in a very prominent position. Its design, including the cabinet is visually intrusive and incongruous in that scene and it is yet another inconsiderate example of the proliferation of street clutter.
3. This location is in the middle of a residential area and will have a detrimental impact upon the community. It will impinge directly upon the lives of local residents who will have to look at it and have their homes devalued by its presence.

Written letters of opposition should be sent to Planning Department, Bedford Borough Council, Town Hall, St. Paul's Square, Bedford. MK40 1SJ. Residents should be assured that they will receive the strong support of ourselves and our Liberal Democrat Parish Councillors in Brickhill.

### **What happens next ?**

**The first stage** The application has now been made to the Borough Council. Our previous experience has been that the Borough Council Planning Dept will **recommend** approval for the mast. The date for decision is currently October 5.

**The second stage** involves consultation with the Brickhill Parish Council. The Parish Council has always objected to these proposals and the matter is then automatically referred to the Planning Committee at the Borough Council. This is an open meeting to which all members of the public may attend and speak if they wish. Should the Parish Council not reject the proposal, as your Borough Councillor Charles Royden has authority to 'call in' the application to ensure that the matter is dealt with in open committee and not dealt with under delegated powers by the Borough Planning Department. Rest assured, this will go to committee.

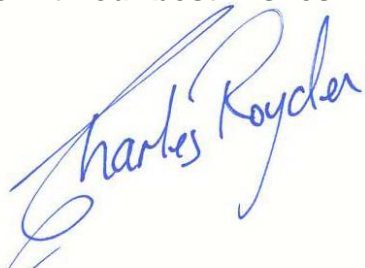
**Third Stage** The meeting of the Borough Planning Committee will decide on the mast proposal. This is also a public meeting and it will be important for us to ensure a high turn out of local residents to express their views. Should permission be refused the company may appeal to the Planning Inspector.

### **Our campaign and our promise to you**

1. We will work with residents to oppose an application through the Parish and Borough Council.
2. Should any application be approved, then we will encourage residents to continue fighting through the appeal process to the Inspector.
3. We will keep you fully update on proposals through our campaign website

**[www.puttingbrickhillfirst.com](http://www.puttingbrickhillfirst.com)**

**Yours with our best wishes**



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