

WE REQUEST TO SPEAK AT THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Head of Planning
London Borough of Barnet
Barnet House
1255 High Road
Whetstone
London
N20 0EJ

1st December 2005

Dear Sir,

Re: Planning Application N14894/05 Health Centre Car Park, Colney Hatch Lane, N10 1HA. Installation of Mobile Phone Mast and Associated Equipment Cabinets

Please accept this letter as the Main Objection Letter for all residents who have seen and read it, who agree with all points made, and have signed a separate letter to confirm this.

NOTES FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION PLEASE

1. We would like to ask if T-Mobile has provided evidence that it has seriously explored the possibility of using other sites away from this area, and also if there is a real need for the proposed development for 3G phones in view of the fact that the 2G coverage is adequate and there is no real interest for 3G mobile phones.
2. We consider that this proposed mast would spoil the visual aspect of the area, and be detrimental to the residential amenities of these residents and to the amenities of persons within the surrounding area, by reason of the very close proximity of this proposed mast to residential housing and sensitive sites, and because of public concern regarding the potential health effects associated with this new telecommunications development.

WE WISH TO REGISTER OUR OBJECTION TO THIS PROPOSAL FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS:

1. Visual Aspect

The proposed mast at 32 feet will tower above surrounding low level developments, trees and vegetation and be visible from all angles and aspects, sticking out as an eyesore and spoiling the aesthetic views from all directions.

The masts and cabinets may distract drivers at the busy junction between Colney Hatch Lane and Sutton Road, and the cabinets may provide line of sight issues.

The cabinets may provide cover for muggers and other undesirables in this poorly lit area, and will reduce the pavement area for pedestrians at this busy locality.

The mast will therefore adversely affect the amenity of the locality.

2. Close proximity to residential housing/leisure areas

The proximity of the development to residential property and a leisure area will be invasive and intrusive and thereby affect the amenity of the area. We believe that to site a mast of this size and design within 25m of houses/building would be in breach of Article 8(1) of the European Convention on Human Rights which provides the right to respect for private and family life, the home and possessions, and article 8(2) which states that there shall be no unnecessary interference by a public authority with that right. The nearest property to this mast site is well within 25m.

The proximity of the mast to residential property in this area will result in more noise nuisance during the night, during erection, maintenance, which commonly takes place overnight, and continually from the widely reported "hum" made by base stations.

3. Siting and External Appearance

'The proposal is in full accordance with policies TE1, TEL1, GB2 and UDP.'

Policies TE1, TEL1, GB2 and the UDP require that the impact of the proposal upon the amenity is minimal through siting and external appearance. The proposed development would, by reason of its size and siting, appear obtrusive and dominating. With current and expected future concerns on mobile phone mast safety, private property values are predicted to fall by as much as 25% in areas where masts are erected in or near to residential properties.

*We acknowledge that this is not a material planning consideration. However, the loss of property value would quite clearly have a very adverse effect on the amenity of the area and the well-being of its residents, and we submit that these aspects **are** material considerations.*

In similar cases, estate agents suggest that should this proposal be approved, all properties in this area will suffer a minimum loss of 10% in value and will become more difficult to sell.

4. Precautionary Approach/Amenity

We feel that the residents' well-being is a valid planning consideration. We are fearful and concerned about the potential risks to health, whether perceived or real. We understand that current research on this matter is still ongoing and that in the past it has merely concentrated on the effects of tissue heating from microwave emitting antenna. There is, however, a large body of scientific research that now challenges this view with regard to other possible symptoms such as increased cancer risk, sterility, effects on heart pacemakers, etc. as well as the biological affects that have only had a limited degree of research, the results of which all point to potential adverse effects.

This application relates to 3G technology for which the emissions are set at a higher frequency. Recent research commissioned by the Dutch Government has demonstrated that there is a risk to health from 3G base stations, as well as an adverse effect upon the well-being of local residents including significant levels of nausea, headaches and tingling sensations.

With this in mind I urge you to follow the recommendation of the Stewart report, and adopt a precautionary approach (see para 1.21 and 6.16 of that report) in deciding applications for phone masts.

The Stewart report also states at para 1.19 that “ **we conclude therefore that it is not possible at present to say that exposure to RF radiation, even at levels below national guidelines, is totally without potential adverse health effects, and that the gaps in knowledge are sufficient to justify a precautionary approach**”.

The Stewart report also recommends that exclusion zones be placed around all base stations. This clearly indicates that there is a potential for concern in placing masts close to sensitive locations such as schools, hospitals and residential areas. In Australia, a mobile phone mast is not permitted within 1000m of a school.

With the precautionary approach in mind we would like to state that there are several schools nearby, the closest of which are Coppetts Wood Primary, Hollickwood Junior Mixed Infants School, Coldfall Infant & Junior School, Norfolk House School, and The Compton School, all of which are within 1km of the proposed mast. In addition there is a Public Library frequented by many children just feet away from the proposed installation. There are also numerous playing fields and parks within 1000m as well as sports centres, colleges, secondary schools and a hospital. We urge you to consider the fear that will be felt by all parents with regard to possible adverse health risks posed to their children. We feel that by placing the mast here it will affect the quality of life and therefore it will have a detrimental effect upon the amenity of the area.

We are in contact with www.mastsanity.org, a voluntary organisation which provides free advice and support for all community members within the UK who have queries or concerns about the siting or safety of all phone masts. Mast Sanity has confirmed our fears about 3G masts and informed us that health survey forms are now being requested for areas around 3G masts, as well as for those covered by Airwave TETRA and longer term existing 2G masts. We understand that in the event of a future ruling on detrimental health effects of 3G masts, that the landowner will be liable for compensation claims rather than the mast owner. As the land is highways land we also request that Barnet Council do not expose Council Taxpayers to potential future litigation.

In conclusion, we feel that our quality of life will be compromised by the installation of this phone mast for the reasons stated above we ask that you recommend that this application is rejected.

Yours sincerely

Mr Paul Barnard, 145 Colney Hatch Lane, London N10 1HA

On behalf of all local residents who have signed a letter of agreement to all points raised in this, the Main Objection Letter to the Head of Planning at Barnet Borough Council, with regards to this prior approval planning application.

Please advise me of the outcome of this application.