

Rampton Parish Council

Minutes of the Public Consultation meeting regarding Telecommunications Mast, held in the Village Hall, Rampton at 7.30pm on Monday 21st March 2016.

Present: Muriel Arden Ivor Lewin
Barrie Doyle Edward Morris

Catherine Brines Minute Taker

Background

Councillor Arden opened the meeting and thanked everyone for coming. She gave a brief background as to why the meeting had been called.

Several months ago local landowners and the Parish Council had been approached by Harlequin Communications working on behalf of O2 to see if we would co-operate with them to find a suitable site to locate a telecommunications mast. The Parish Council tentatively said yes.

The site chosen was Pinder Park and the Parish Council were contacted again, they nominated Cllr Doyle to be the point of contact for Harlequin. There was a site meeting in early March where concerns were raised about the original site chosen because the Parish Council were waiting for planning permission for a play area. At this site meeting the Parish Council asked for the site to be changed to the furthest distance on the field away from the play area, which the site survey thought would not be a problem.

Cllr Arden told the meeting that as a Parish Council we needed to look seriously at this proposal from a technology side and also at income for the Parish Council. She talked coverage and the positives for the village but also acknowledged that people had worries about close contact of these kinds.

Cllr Doyle gave an overview of where we are now and the research he had done in to masts of this kind. It was at the stage ready to go to Planning but nothing had been signed or formally agreed at the moment.

Purpose of this meeting was to consult and get feedback from the Parish about this and for it to progress any further we needed a consensus from the Parish.

Issues and questions Raised:

Councillors were asked how close to the Children's play area was it?
Cllr Doyle said approximately 200 meters away.

It was felt that it would have a negative impact on house prices in the village

A lady saying she was a representative from the School said that the School does know about this and were not in favour, it was felt that it needed to be 2 miles from the School and that they did not want it to go ahead.

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The Councillors were asked if the Parish Council were in favour of this?

The Parish Council had to consider this proposal and take into consideration all aspects of it, but it was stressed that nothing had been signed or done formally.

Cllr Doyle was asked what was being done about an exclusion zone?

He said there was to be a security fence around the mast about 5 meters in diameter.

He was asked what was to stop children from climbing over this fence as it was so close to a play area?

This was something he would raise with the company to see what they would suggest or do to try and prevent this.

Cllr Doyle was asked what style of mast was it?

He said it was a lattice frame 15 meters high

Was it going to be covered in dishes as well? The person then explained about one he had seen in Dunham on Trent which looked like a pole for a camera.

What are the motives for having this mast on Parish Council land? The Parish Council were approached and asked if in principle we were interested which we tentatively said yes.

The Councillors were asked what amounts were we talking about and what was the down payment?

Cllr Doyle said we had been offered £3,500 as rental per year and there was no down payment for having it. If it were to go ahead we would be looking at a formal lease and a much better deal and would be looking to employ a Phonemast Co. (at no cost to the Parish Council) to negotiate this lease on our behalf. However it was stressed again that for this to progress we need a consensus from the Parish.

Have other areas been considered? Could it not go on the land which is coming back from the Power Station? Other areas have been considered and we could ask about this land.

Have the Parish Council considered solar panels? We have considered them and had been in touch with the Power Station to ask them about this idea and they were not interested.

The Parish Council were asked if the Church Tower could possibly be looked at to accommodate the mast as this had been done in other villages, it would also be a better option from a safety aspect?

What was the reason why the Company chose this area? Was it chosen because of cost? Is there a report on why this particular site and was that report available to look at? Cllr Doyle said he had not seen a report and was not sure there was one. He could certainly ask Harlequinn why that specific area was chosen.

Does it have to be Rampton? There is a Government incentive to put more technology in rural areas

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A young man who was studying Aircraft Engineering stood up and explained to the meeting how he thought telecommunications masts worked and in his opinion he felt they weren't safe.

If the Parish Council decide no what is to stop this Company going to a private landowner to site the mast? Nothing at all.

Who are the Landowners in this area? Why can't it be away from the Village?

Who would do the Risk Assessment for this and sign it off? Can it be anywhere else if not say no.

Asked if there could be a referendum on this? The Parish Council said there could be.

It was felt that more information about the safety aspect was needed and that another meeting be held so that the Parish Council could get some answers to the questions and issues raised and bring them back.

It was agreed to hold another meeting and that this be well publicised to try and get more people to attend

Councillor Arden thanked everyone for coming.