

Abthorpe Parish Council wish to make the following comments, which take into account the views of several residents who attended the Council's meeting where the application was discussed.

1. Health concerns – while various studies have shown that a health risk cannot be demonstrated, they have been unable to prove that there is no health risk. Residents close to the proposed site are particularly concerned and do not understand why the guidelines provide for consultation with schools situated within 200m of the mast site but not for houses where children live. If there is a danger to children in schools, there is equally a danger to children in houses. There is additional concern over the introduction of Third Generation mobile phone technology.
2. No consultation took place with the owner of the land.
3. The proposed site will prevent large agricultural vehicles with trailers from proceeding from Potland (the lane off Brackley Lane just to the north of the proposed site) into Brackley Lane in a southerly direction. This is currently common practice.
4. Although the proposed site is quite high, there is a problem of flooding in very wet weather due to run-off from the adjacent field. This has been discussed on a number of occasions with the highways department in the past. It has been partly relieved by joint action involving the District Council in providing a culvert behind the houses on the west side of Brackley Lane. Further work was promised involving enlarging the ditch adjacent to the proposed site and creating additional grips for surface water on Brackley Lane to run off at that point. It is vital that the proposed works do not interfere with this ditch. Moreover the possibility of ground water flooding should be taken into account.
5. The area of the proposed site is currently used by children as a play area, being one of the few safe areas in the village.
6. The plans show that traffic diversion will be necessary while the cherry picker is in use. No diversionary route exists. Brackley Lane at that point is used throughout the day for access by the residents of Grafton View, for agricultural access and for access to areas where horses and goats are kept. A prolonged blockage is not acceptable.
7. The proposed site is adjacent to a dead ash tree which will eventually disintegrate. The mast will then be a visual intrusion.