

## The Planning Inspectorate

### COMMENTS ON CASE (Online Version)

Please note that comments about this case need to be made within the timetable. This can be found in the notification letter sent by the local planning authority or the start date letter. Comments submitted after the deadline may be considered invalid and returned to sender.

**Appeal Reference: APP/C3105/W/17/3174363**

#### DETAILS OF THE CASE

Appeal Reference

Appeal By

Site Address

#### SENDER DETAILS

Name

Address

#### ABOUT YOUR COMMENTS

In what capacity do you wish to make representations on this case?

- Appellant
- Agent
- Interested Party / Person
- Land Owner
- Rule 6 (6)

What kind of representation are you making?

- Final Comments
- Proof of Evidence
- Statement
- Statement of Common Ground
- Interested Party/Person Correspondence
- Other

## YOUR COMMENTS ON THE CASE

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 - Appeal against Refusal

Appellant's Name: Harlequin Group

Proposal: The installation of 1.no. 21 metre high RT Swann Lattice tower on new concrete base with 6 no. antennas, 2 no. dishes, 4 no. cabinets and ancillary development thereto

Location: 02 Land Adj To B4035 CTIL 201348 Unnamed B4035 Single Carriageway 6811256 Sibford Gower

Parish(es):Sibford Gower

Appeal Reference: APP/C3105/W/17/3174363

Appeal Start Date: 18 July 2017

Sally Taylor  
Blenheim Farm  
Shutford  
Banbury  
OX15 6HD

20th August 2017

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing with regard to the above planning appeal reference APP/C3105/W/17/3174363.

I very strongly support the appeal against refusal of this application.

Having lived in a rural location all of my life sadly I find myself the poor relation of my urban counterparts as far as technology infrastructure goes. I have exceptionally poor to no mobile phone signal where I live and work and in the surrounding area.

I have owned a mobile phone for over 20 years and in that entire time I have been unable to successfully make and sustain a call from my mobile phone from either my home or my place of work. Why? Because there is limited to no signal at either of these locations.

The government outlined a deal in 2014 regarding the upgrading of the mobile phone signal network and still we are yet to see any improvement in our area.

Here is a link to a press release from the 18th December 2014 published by the Department of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport on the Government's website, titled:-  
Government secures landmark deal for UK mobile phone users

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-secures-landmark-deal-for-uk-mobile-phone-users>

Below is an extract from the above link. The statements highlighted in red are targets that were supposed to be met by 2017. As yet none of these targets have been met in the area that the proposed phone mast would be sited.

Culture Secretary Sajid Javid today (Thursday) announces a landmark deal with the four mobile

networks to improve mobile coverage across the UK.

As part of its long-term economic plan, the Government has secured a binding agreement with the mobile networks EE, O2, Three and Vodafone to tackle poor signal issues in so-called 'partial not-spots'.

These are areas within the UK that have coverage from some but not all of the four mobile networks. Depending on the network consumers are on, they may have no coverage in these areas.

Under the agreement all four of the mobile networks have collectively agreed to:

- a guaranteed £5bn investment programme to improve mobile infrastructure by 2017;
- guaranteed voice and text coverage from each operator across 90 per cent of the UK geographic area by 2017, halving the areas currently blighted by patchy coverage as a result of partial 'not-spots';
- full coverage from all four mobile operators will increase from 69 per cent to 85 per cent of geographic areas by 2017;
- provide reliable signal strength for voice for each type of mobile service (whether 2G/3G/4G) – currently many consumers frequently lose signal or cannot get signal long enough to make a call; and
- make the deal legally binding by accepting amended licence conditions to reflect the agreement – it will be enforceable by Ofcom.

No cash payments will be made by Government to the mobile networks as part of this agreement.

This deal will also result in cutting total 'not-spots' where there is currently no mobile coverage by two-thirds. This will support the Government's existing £150m programme to take mobile coverage to the areas of the UK that have no coverage at all.

How can the government encourage the expansion of the mobile network yet the Cherwell District Council deem it acceptable to turn down an application to do just that?

The lack of mobile reception in our area has a huge impact on both our family business and my own business and my personal safety.

Together with my family we run a busy arable and grass farm. Besides the arable crops we produce hay and haylage for horses that is sold across the country. The lack of mobile phone signal is prohibitive to this business as many of our existing customers and potential new customers struggle to get in contact.

In today's "instant" culture people become frustrated at not being able to gain an answer to their question or place an order for our product, it is also virtually impossible to conduct any type of business using a mobile phone while out on the farm or the surrounding area. No voicemails can be listened to, no texts received or replied to and no emails can be received or answered. If you happen to find a "hot spot" the likelihood is that you may get one bar of GPRS or EDGE signal, very unlikely to be 3G, let alone 4G, which is nonexistent in this area.

See below for an explanation of these two services, they are close to useless.

GPRS explained

What does the GPRS stand for on a phone's data signal strength?

One step up from no data signal at all is GPRS, which stands for General Packet Radio Service.

Wikipedia defines GPRS as a "best effort" service and "a packet oriented mobile data service on the 2G and 3G cellular communication system's global system for mobile communications (GSM)."

Depending on who you believe in 2G systems GPRS provides data rates of 35–171Kilobits per second (Kbps). 2G cellular technology combined with GPRS is sometimes described as 2.5G. It provides slow-speed data transfer, by using unused time division multiple access (TDMA) channels in, for example, the GSM system.

All you need to know is that GPRS means you might eventually get a webpage to load or an email or iMessage to send, but it will probably take longer than you have patience for.

EDGE explained

What does the E mean on a phone's data signal strength?

The E stands for EDGE (Enhanced Data rates for GSM Evolution). This is a step up from GPRS and can reach speeds between 120Kbps to 384Kbps. This was the original iPhone's top data network speed.

Now it's met with a sigh because it means where you're standing doesn't have an 3G or 4G signal. Still, it's better than GPRS, eh!

What's it like? Edge is like asking your neighbour's child to deliver the mail for you.

Agriculture is also an extremely dangerous occupation. Mobile phone signal in rural areas should be guaranteed to ensure the health and safety of anyone that works on or crosses the farmland on public rights of way.

The Health and Safety Executives figures show (in the web link below) that agricultural accidents resulting in fatalities sadly happen all too regularly. Contact with emergency services should be available via mobile phones at all times.

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/agriculture/pdf/ag-fatal-1617.pdf>

I also have a business in which I am heavily involved with horses. I ride and have sole responsibility for some very valuable competition and racehorses. Horses are large animals that can be unpredictable and dangerous at times. If I, or anyone working with the horses and me were to have an accident or be injured there is no signal to use a mobile phone to raise the alarm or call the emergency services without potentially having to leave the casualty unattended. Equally there is an animal welfare issue in that should a horse have an accident or be ill it would, again, be impossible to make an emergency mobile phone call to raise the alarm or call a vet from the location of the stables or surrounding fields.

In short, I think the refusal of the original application, by the Cherwell District Council, for the installation of this mast, to provide a massively improved mobile telecommunications network for this area of Oxfordshire was ill considered and frankly ludicrous.

Advantages of having a consistently functional mobile phone network in this area would be;

- 1) Improved health and safety benefits for both agricultural workers and visitors to this area.
- 2) Improved animal welfare in regard the monitoring and treatment of injured or sick horse stabled here, or other agricultural animals kept in the surrounding area.
- 3) Improved business function, for rural and small businesses struggling with limited mobile telecoms.
- 4) Improved over all rural telecommunications network

Yours faithfully

Sally Taylor

**COMMENT DOCUMENTS**

**The documents listed below were uploaded with this form:**

**Relates to Section:** REPRESENTATION

**Document Description:** Your comments on the appeal.

**File name:** Appeal Ref 3174363 TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990.docx

**PLEASE ENSURE THAT A COPY OF THIS SHEET IS ENCLOSED WHEN POSTING THE ABOVE DOCUMENTS TO US**