



GRAM Planning & Telecommunications Supplement

- It is imperative that you keep a close look out on all WBC applications (not just Telecommunications) since phone mast applications do NOT always appear in the Telecommunications listing, especially ones over 15m.
- Also Beware – you will not necessarily be notified about a mast that you would be concerned about. WBC does notify more residents than it used to, but still shamefully few considering the health effects which affect people in the whole vicinity. The visual and financial aspects also impact on those who live further than just one or two roads away.
- You must Beware! Mast applications are often just made at the beginning of school holidays with the result that (IF the nearby school HAS been notified) schools are given no chance to object. Additionally, with many families on holiday, there are fewer residents around to object.
- Watch out – an application may be misleading to residents, so check all the details! Check all the operator's claims in the application too – they are frequently incorrect.
- Do not bother organising a petition since, however many signatures are on it, it will only be counted by Woking Borough Council as ONE objection letter.
- If an objection letter is signed by more than one person, WBC counts it as ONE objection so it is imperative that each adult member of the household signs their own letter (though copies of letters are fine to use). Friends and family who regularly visit your home can also object, but Operators may use this against you.
- When you find out that a mast application has been made, it is imperative that you request to all the Planning Committee members that the application is “Called to Full Committee”. This means that it is discussed at the Planning Committee meeting, rather than being dealt with out of public sight under delegated powers by Planning Officers who are more likely to approve the Application than reject it.
- It is imperative that you attend the Planning Committee Meeting for any mast application to check what is being said and by whom – sometimes this can be a real eye-opener...
- Contrary to the out-of-date advice contained in the WBC leaflet Health Considerations and Fear of Well Being CAN (and should) be taken account as aspects of the Loss of Amenity for a site.
- When a planning application for a Prior Approval mast has been refused, it is imperative that you ensure that WBC informs the operator straight away, by fax and by 1st Class Registered Post, i.e. The next day, and that you have in writing that the operator has received this notification.
- If WBC cock up and an application is subsequently allowed, WBC have no obligation to inform those who had objected previously to the application. So, ideally, you must attend every Planning Committee after an application has been decided to check that any previous refusal is still in force. It would even be advisable to phone every week to ensure the situation has not changed in the meantime, since Planning Committees have a long summer break - (see the news on the mast on Parley Drive for the reason for this advice).
- Contact a local group such as GRAM via www.nomasts.org.uk for further advice and support.