

LOCKERLEY GREEN PROPOSED MAST

PROPOSED QUESTIONS FOR PARISH MEETING 29 MARCH 2021

This document has been sent to the chair, Len Arthur, in advance of the meeting. Further comments and queries from emails received so far have been collated and are presented in a separate document.

1. You say in the published summary of the Parish Council meeting held 15 March 2021 that you have spoken to Hampshire Association of Local Councils who advised that “communication with the company was key to obtaining a satisfactory solution and to suggest alternative sites if possible”.

Have you sought advice from them as to the main issue, namely the nature and strength of the Council’s case in resisting the imposition of rights over the village green?

2. You say the same thing in relation to RADAR solicitors under the Council’s insurance policy.

Does this policy cover the Council for legal fees for advice on this matter? Also have you sought advice from them on the main issue as mentioned above?

3. Please would you provide full details of the alternative sites which have been offered.

Is the Council aware of the parameters demanded by GallifordTry for the siting of their masts, if so what are they?

4. In any discussions with GallifordTry will you be making clear the strength of the Council’s case against making this site available bearing in mind the two tests which have to be fulfilled before possession can be granted under Paragraph 21 of the Electronic Communications Code; and principally that it is not possible for the Council to be adequately compensated by money in its unique position of owning land registered as common land and which is held for the benefit of the community?

Once taken land of this nature cannot be replaced.

5. The Parish Council have voted not to seek independent legal advice at this time.

Given the complexities of this matter and local public opinion on the

proposed position of the mast would the Council be prepared to appoint a professional surveyor to advise and assist discussions?

Initial enquires have established that a firm such as BCM, who have an office in Sutton Scotney, would be able to provide such advice and would act for the Parish Council. BCM have expertise in relation to the siting of telecommunications masts in rural locations. The surveyor spoken to, Hanna Rickards, stated that it is normal practice for their agreed fees to be paid direct to them by the Utility Companies seeking rights over land. Having regard to the fact GallifordTry has said they would fund £1500+VAT to cover such fees would this not be a sensible way forward? (**We would request a show of hands from those in favour or against be taken at this point**).

6. Can the meeting be informed what is the purpose of the mast; is it to improve mobile phone coverage, smart metering or both?
What networks will use it?
Is it 2G, 3G, 4G or 5G. Is it only required to provide a signal for smart metering?
Will residents around the Green see an improvement in mobile coverage or are their properties too close so the signal passes 'over' their properties?
7. Can the meeting please be informed who is dealing with all these matters on behalf of the Parish Council, what expertise do they have?
What are their objectives?
8. How are local people being kept up to date on the progress of these matters?
How does the Parish Council intend to harness the view of local people?
9. There has been a report that the intended site of the mast may be in the flight path of bats. This was made known to one local resident when seeking planning permission.
Has this issue been considered?