



Mobile Phone Mast Action Letter No. 4

DON'T STOP CAMPAIGNING NOW! Editorial by Trudy Dean



"Not everybody is on the net!" Despite the increasing use of the internet and mast action websites, people continue to ask us to carry on with the paper newsletter. So, here we are again!

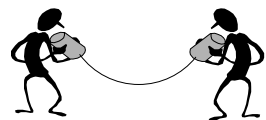
We all expected to see rapid results after the publication of the Stewart Panel's Report. But instead, the Government began a consultation process which ended last October. Since then....silence. There is mounting frustration that the Government is dragging its heels, and we must put all possible pressure on them to get the job finished and implement the Stewart Report recommendations as soon as possible. We also need to press for removal of existing masts which would not have received planning consent had it been required. So our message is "Don't Stop Campaigning Now!". We all feel we have won the battle, but we have yet to win the war.

This newsletter brings you up to date with developments since Stewart. There is some really good news for those campaigning against individual mast proposals. In December, there was a ground breaking ruling about the Secretary of State's ability to overrule Planning Inspectors on Appeal. In January, two very important Inspectors' Decisions on mast applications gave what we think was the proper snub to the Government and Nick Raynsford in particular. We should all be quoting these cases in our own campaigns.

As usual, we also give you stories which you may find helpful, or even amusing, from Kent, UK and the rest of the world.

If the experience of other groups is of use to you, we can put you in touch with most of them.

So Carry On Campaigning...You are not alone, and we really are making a difference!



Trudy Dean - Leader, Liberal Democrat Group, Kent County Council

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The mast action Website is <http://freespace.virginnet.co.uk/mast.action>



The e-mail address for Mast Action UK is mast.free@virgin.net

For further copies of this leaflet please contact the Liberal Democrat Office, Kent County Council, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XQ. Tel: 01622 694239, Fax: 01622 694219,

E-mail: libdem@kent.gov.uk

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March 2001

Vindication at last - Stewart Report is great news!

On 11th May, a collective cheer went up around the country as the long-awaited Stewart Report recommended many of the things that action groups throughout the country have been seeking. Although the media concentrated on the lack of evidence of health risks, the report concluded that it was not possible to say that exposure to radiofrequency was entirely safe, and recommended a precautionary approach be taken. The Report was the biggest step forward yet in our fight and we support it whole-heartedly.

You can read the whole report on www.iegmp.org.uk



The Stewart Panel was set up in 1999 as an Independent Expert Group to look into telecommunications. It was chaired by Sir William Stewart and held several open meetings around the UK and some closed meetings. It accepted evidence from a variety of sources, from individual experiences to the work of prominent Scientists and telecom. companies.

What were the main recommendations of the Stewart Report?

- Precautionary Approach - be adopted in the use of mobile phone technology until more detailed scientific evidence and information is available.
- Permitted Development Rights - should be revoked and that all masts should be subject to the normal planning process. This means more time to consult the public, and wider grounds of objection, including landscape and public concern on health issues.
- Children - should be discouraged from using mobile phones.
- Schools - the beam of greatest intensity should not fall directly on school grounds.
- Health Risks - the report says the balance of evidence to date does not suggest that masts and mobile phone emissions put the health of the UK population at risk, but it goes on to say that exposure to radiofrequency radiation may '**cause subtle effects on biological functions, including those of the brain**' and though this does not necessarily mean health is affected, '**it is not possible to say that exposure to radiofrequency radiation, even at levels below national guidelines, is totally without potential adverse health effects**'.
- Well-being – concern that siting of masts may adversely affect the public's well-being as much as any direct health effects.

What does all this mean?

None of these recommendations have yet been adopted by Government. They said that they were 'minded to' adopt them, but then began the consultation exercise which ended in October 2000. Apart from the clarifications we explain on page 3, **nothing has changed in Planning Law**. Applications need to be fought as strenuously as ever.



RESPONSES TO THE STEWART REPORT

The Local Government Association (LGA), representing all Councils in the UK, hailed the findings of the Stewart Report. They said that 'the proposals will allow authorities to listen to the concerns of local residents about the siting of masts'. They also said they hoped the Government would heed the advice given.

Kent Ass. of Local Authorities, representing all Councils in Kent, backed the Stewart Report. (Trudy is Chair!)

Federation of the Electronics Industry - after the Kent Lib Dems wrote to this organisation to ask their views on the Stewart Report, we received a reply saying the majority of base stations 'already meet the ICNIRP public exposure guidelines', that all new base stations will be 'built to this standard' and that all existing sites will be checked and modified 'as soon as practicable'. The letter went on to say that 'the industry remains absolutely committed to addressing public concerns'. The full response to the Report can be seen at www.fei.org.uk/fei/issues/mobile/backgrounder.html. (ed. Do they seriously want people to use this Website?)

Warwickshire County Council adopted the precautionary approach to masts and continued a ban on masts on their property.

Derby - The City Lib Dems asked for recognition of public concern and members voted unanimously to urge local MPs to back the request for greater planning controls.

Stockport Greater Manchester – banned all masts from schools.

Hackney London – In June at a meeting attended by local residents, MPs and FoE, a moratorium on masts and possibly revocation of existing licences was agreed.

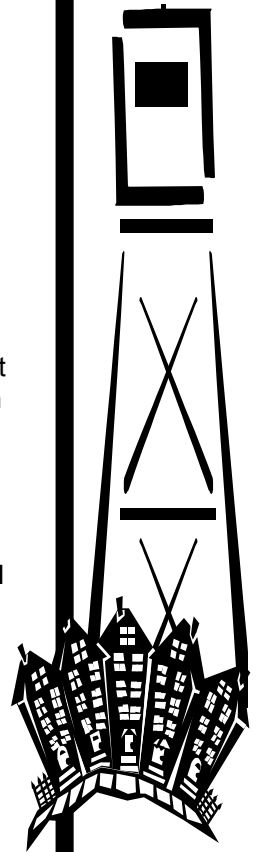
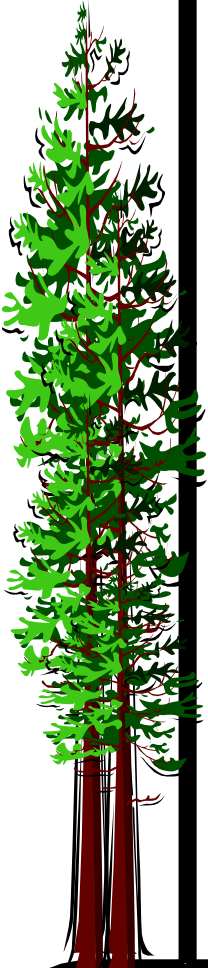
CAMPAIGNING NEWS

In a number of cases where planning authorities have refused permission for masts, giving health concerns as reasons, the telecom companies have appealed. The Secretary of State on appeal has ruled in favour of granting planning consent, often commenting that health concerns are not for the planning authority to consider. Maybe the Thurrock and Harrow Appeal Decisions mentioned below show that the situation is beginning to change.

On July 29th Nick Raynsford the Planning Minister, wrote to all Council Leaders. He told them provided masts satisfied the ICNIRP emission levels, which all normally do, 'that it should not be necessary for a Local Planning Authority, in processing an application, to consider health effects further'. This advice ignored the previous Newport and Tandridge cases. Here the Court had ruled that public concern on potential health risks was a 'material planning objection' i.e. a valid reason for refusing planning consent. Planning Authorities needed to take account of those concerns, though they had to decide for themselves what weight to attach to them.

On 2nd October 2000 the provisions of the **Human Rights Act (HRA)** became law in England and Wales. All UK law, including Planning Law, will need to comply with the HRA. Two of its provisions grant **the right to a fair and impartial hearing, and to respect for private and family life, in addition to the peaceful enjoyment of possessions.**

On 12th December 2000, Lord Justice Tuckey and Mr Justice Harrison gave a High Court ruling relating to 4 appeals against refusal of planning consent. In the case of ALCONBURY LIMITED, they agreed that the Secretary of State for the Environment was neither independent nor impartial, as required by the HRA, because it was his policy which was in dispute. Unless this ruling is overturned on Appeal, which has been lodged, the SoS's ability to intervene in planning guidance or over rule independent inspectors, may be limited.



Now read on.....

THE EFFECT OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS ACT.

Combined with the earlier acceptance that public concern about health is a valid planning objection, the Human Rights Act now grants a right to respect for private and family life, and quiet enjoyment of possessions. As a result, the responsibility falls upon the applicant to demonstrate the need for a mast against which there are objections. He must show the mast must be in that chosen location, and that no alternative exists in a less sensitive site which would provide for the network satisfactorily. This view has been strengthened by the following two Appeal decisions.



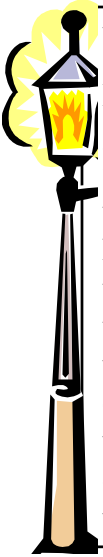
THURROCK AND HARROW APPEAL CASES.

In February decisions were made, in Thurrock and Harrow, on Appeals against refusals of masts for which applications for prior approval had been made i.e. masts for which full planning consent was NOT required.

In Thurrock, the Inspector points out that the mast will be some 13 metres from one house and says that this will materially diminish their quality of life. He says that it has not been demonstrated that the need for the mast cannot feasibly be met in an alternative way which would not threaten residential amenities. He says "If for commercial reasons the Appellant wishes to encourage or facilitate the greater use of its product locally, then alternative ways of providing the infrastructure should be examined."

In Harrow, the Inspector wrote 'In my view the balance between network rollout and the protection of amenityrequires for the balancing exercise a conclusion to be reached about the degree of operational need....the satisfaction of need is not an absolute imperative that outweighs all other considerations... in ..this Appeal, the need to site the proposed installation in the location proposed does not outweigh the serious harm it would cause to the amenity of neighbouring residents in terms of visual impact and anxiety about possible health effects.'

WATCH OUT!..THERE MAY BE TRICKERY ABOUT



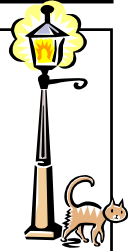
WATCH OUT FOR NOTICES.....

Keep checking Notices on Lamp posts, gates etc. One Maidstone resident lived in an area where a mast had just been turned down by the council but the notice had not been removed...or so she thought. A couple of days later she went to remove the notice herself, and found it was for another application by the same company for a slimmer mast. The notice was in exactly the same place as the earlier one, and local residents believe it was a deliberate attempt to deceive them.

...EVEN IF YOU NEED BINOCULARS!

In Cassiobury Drive, Watford, Orange posted notices on lamp posts..... facing into the road. Many people did not see them, and if they did, needed to stand in the traffic in a busy road to read them.

Orange subsequently withdrew this application...but is just goes to show...take your binoculars with you when you go notice spotting!



NOTHING TO DO WITH ME.....

Telecom companies use sub-contractors to find sites for them, and to do the construction work.



The telecom companies will tell you that they are very committed to keeping people informed, telling councils about their future roll-out plans, and negotiating with local people about more acceptable sites. (Much of this they are bound to do anyway as a result of the Telecomms Code of Practice which accompanies the Telecommunications Act of 1984.) But in many cases this just does not happen.

Campaigners find themselves talking to sub contractors whose only worry is getting on with the job and getting paid. The telecomms companies hide behind their subcontractors, and don't always get involved. So you need to make sure you ARE talking to the company. Phone their Headquarters and find out who is dealing with masts in your area, and talk to THEM. If they refuse to negotiate, they may well be contravening the Code and the Human Rights Act as well...so make sure you use these contravention's as reasons to object to the applications, especially if you are already at Appeal stage.

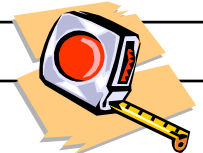
“THE WORKMEN JUST TURNED UP...”

We hear of so many cases where the first time local residents know of an application is when the van turns up and the workmen start construction. Don't be afraid to phone the Council straight away and find out what is going on. If it is a mast, get them to stop work until the proper procedures have been gone through. Sometimes, the Councils claim not to have been told either! There have been many cases where local residents have blockaded the sites and forced workmen to leave without carrying out their job. Beware....in Hart, workmen arrived to work on a water tower and claimed to be fixing air pollution equipment. It turned out to be telecom equipment.



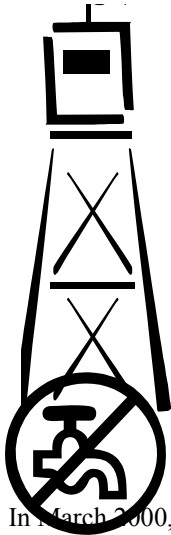
FAULTY TAPE MEASURE?

In our last newsletter we told you about a new ruling that the mast **together with its base** needed to be under 15 metres to escape the need for full planning consent. Many masts around the country have now been re-measured and had enforcement notices served on them, which means the full planning application process has to be gone through, or the mast removed. Stockport, Greater Manchester issued a notice on Orange, and Tendring District Council sent one to One2One. If you think a mast has gone up which is over 15 metres high without full planning consent, ring the local Planning Authority...usually the District or Borough Council, and get them to measure it.



SOME CAUTIONARY TALES

Sometimes the tales we get are so amazing, it's difficult to believe they happened this way. But here the sorry stories are, as told to us.



Hart - A Water Tower at the end of an historic village was converted to a telecomm base station for One-2-One, Orange, and now Vodafone. In 1997, Mercury erected one dish and one sector antenna on the then still functioning Water Tower. Residents suddenly received water from a different direction and some had discoloured mainswater. A resident asked what was happening on the Water Tower and was told that they were installing something to measure the air pollution! In 1999, lots of workmen were seen on the Water Tower, and residents found out that the development was a Telecommunications base station for Orange. Hart Council and One-2-One, who were upgrading their original development under permitted development rights, directed Orange to this site. Hart Council did not inform or reply to the residents, who went to the Ombudsman. They proved the development did not fall into permitted development rights. The aggregate size of dish and antennas were over the permitted development allowance. The Ombudsman decided that, although there had been maladministration, the residents were not able to demonstrate actual injustice done to them. Hart Council did change its policy of not notifying even the Parish Council, but it had the opportunity to object to this development as the equipment cabins were well over 2 cubic metres, but it did not object to the visual appearance of the development.

In March 2000, Vodafone proposed to "share" the Water Tower; without going through the proper procedure of waiting for approval from Hart Council. Vodafone started building at the Water Tower and the residents questioned their presence. The Council issued an enforcement notice for work to stop but Vodafone came back a few weeks later, this time with confirmation of Hart Council, according to them. Hart Council denied the confirmation, the residents pointed to the reasons why this is not permitted (again the dish antenna over permitted development, the ancillaries well over permitted development etc.). Somehow, all the plans went missing at Hart Council. The council solicitor requested new plans from Vodafone. Eventually, prior approval was turned down for a large galvanised steel platform and access ladder, but all other development by Vodafone was granted. Hart Council has in principle confirmed all other development, ancillary to this sharing of Vodafone on the Water Tower, without prior approval being required in their opinion.

Hockley, Essex - A Cellnet Base Station was sited in 1994 directly behind a house, only feet from the back fence. Although at the time the occupants protested against it, BT assured them that there was no risk to health. In August 1996, the occupants' grandson, who was then 2 ½ years old, was diagnosed as suffering from leukaemia. He had spent a considerable amount of time in the garden, as the occupants had a swimming pool. The child's parents spoke to the Great Ormond Street Hospital consultant who suggested that it might be better if the child did not visit the home. A short time after the residents' grandson was diagnosed with leukaemia; a neighbour was diagnosed as having a benign brain tumour. BT has now agreed to send a surveyor to check the emissions and also discuss fears residents have. The occupants are also looking into the possibility of using the Human Rights Act to get the mast removed.



Ongoing Action in Herts - Hertfordshire Co. Co. has an agreement with Orange to replace old lampposts with new ones which include phone masts. The Bucks Examiner was told that the agreement was to avoid "clutter" as Orange had the right to put up masts in the highway and there was "nothing they could do to stop it". The Bucks Examiner (10 Nov) reports that Hertfordshire CC lawyers are investigating the deal to replace 100 streetlamps with models including phone masts. A county council spokesman said "The simple fact of the matter is that with masts under 15m in height telecommunications companies can put them pretty much where they wish." Hmmm.



Thanet - In October 2000, One2One applied to put a 40 ft mast at the corner of London Road and Pegwell Road. KCC as owner of the highway on which it was to stand, Thanet District Council, and local residents opposed the plan. Thanet Council refused prior approval but One2One claimed it did not receive it and in the summer workers began digging a mast base. Highways officers ordered them to stop and after two days they agreed to fill in the hole and leave. One2One then launched a legal battle to challenge KCC's ban. It gave the Council 30 days to pass approval or go to a judicial review to determine if the ban was lawful. KCC offered to pay half of Thanet Council's legal fees, but Thanet Councillors bottled out when advised by their officers they could be surcharged. (Never heard of it happening yet.)



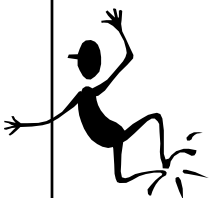
News from Kent County Council

On 22 January 2001, the Cabinet at Kent County Council agreed a report that KCC should follow the precautionary recommendations of the Stewart Report. This included the adoption of a policy to refuse applications for mobile telecommunication installations on Council non highway land. The Cabinet agreed the following recommendations:

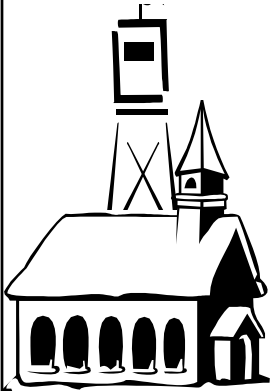
- Where a mobile phone company applies for permission to erect a mast on land or property owned or occupied by KCC, which is not part of the highway or a school property, permission to erect a mast will be refused by KCC acting as landowner or occupier, except in exceptional circumstances and where there are no issues of public access.
- Once the Stewart Report recommendations are enacted into law, KCC will deal with all future requests for the erection of new mobile phone masts in line with the relevant legislation.
- School governors will be requested to adopt the same policy in advance of any changes in the law.
- Schools are now able to request that the emissions from any masts on their sites are checked by Radiocommunications Agency. All such schools will be urged to make use of this facility.
- School governors will be advised in full of the recommendations of the Stewart Report which affect schools, drawing their attention to the recommendation that they restrict the use of mobile phones by their pupils for non-essential reasons.
- KCC will advise the owners of other land and property in Kent of the policies it is adopting, whether they be public bodies of any sort, voluntary or charitable organisations, or private land owners, and it will request them to adopt the approach outlined above.
- Since KCC is unable to prevent the erection of mobile phone masts on highway land, where appropriate and where there is significant public use or landscape impact, it will support district councils in opposing such masts.
- Where mobile phone masts are erected on KCC property, of whatever sort, the emissions from such masts will be subject to regular checks to ensure that they are within safe limits. Particular attention will be given to those that might affect schools.
- KCC will request all district councils in Kent to join with it in instituting independent, regular and random sample surveys of all masts within the county. Priority in these checks will be given to those sited in residential areas or masts about which particular concerns have been raised.
- KCC will take action to press the Government to introduce the legislation necessary to enact the recommendations outlined in the Stewart Report as soon as possible. In particular, it will:
 - Seek the support of Kent MPs to lobby Government
 - Seek a meeting with Ministers
 - Seek the support of District, Parish and Town Councils, parent and environmental groups for this approach.

KCC will request meetings with the mobile phone companies themselves to seek to persuade them to adhere to the principles contained in the Stewart Report on a voluntary basis.

KCC also later agreed to Trudy's request that it negotiates with companies to get masts already on schools removed. There are twelve in Kent. Trudy comments: **"After many months of trying to get KCC to accept there is a problem, I am really pleased that it has chosen to take a strong stand, particularly in supporting Planning Authorities who are the ones who end up in Court battling the against the phone companies"**.



Churches



In June 2000, the Independent reported that churches are likely to be called upon to house the latest in new transmitters - high tech strips that can be miraculously concealed in tall buildings. These new strips, which are thought to be under development by the industry, can pick up signals from a variety of mobile phone networks and they blend in with their environment. Easily concealed against buildings, the only stipulation is that they have to be high up - and that is where the church spires come in. It is uncertain whether the new generation of transmitters will be able to allay public fears about the health risk from the pulse radiation used in the digital signals sent by the phone masts.

As a result of this article, Trudy Dean wrote to the Diocese of Canterbury - Diocesan Advisory Committee for the care of churches and the Diocese of Rochester. **Both responded to state that the siting of mobile phone masts on church towers or spires is primarily for the decision of the individual Parochial Church Council (PCC). The proposals would not proceed unless the PCC was supportive, since they would be a party to the necessary licence under faculty, allowing the necessary access to the church and dealing with matters of rental etc. The Church is encouraging PCCs to have real consultations with parishioners, including public meetings, with full information . Mast Action UK have had a meeting with the CoE and will be presenting suggested information which should be shared with parishioners as part of these consultations.**

(NB. The Parochial Church Council is NOT the same as the Parish Council! The Vicar will be able to supply names of the members of the PCC.)

If a PCC approves the installation and siting of a telecommunication aerial and/or relay equipment, it is required, under the care of churches and Ecclesiastical jurisdiction measure 1991, to obtain a Faculty for the work from the Diocesan Chancellor. The Diocesan Advisory Committee, the statutory body set up under the 1991 Measure, has the responsibility for considering the details of the proposed work, its impact on the architecture of the building and advises the Chancellor accordingly. The policy of the Commissary General and the DAC is to assess proposals on a case-by-case basis. However, the principle of installing mobile phone installations in churches was accepted some years ago. It therefore falls to the DAC and ultimately the Commissary to assess the merits of each application, in particular in relation to the physical and visual impact of telecommunications equipment on historic fabric. A faculty will always be required for mobile phone installations, since they involve an alteration to the premises, potential objections from parishioners and access requirements for maintenance. **As part of the faculty process, parishioners have the right to make their views known on any proposals affecting their parish church. The Commissary General will take these into account when considering any faculty petition.**

In December 2000, the Derby Telegraph reported that 'Derbyshire's historic church spires could soon accommodate a new type of ring. Historic places of worship across the county have been earmarked by the Archbishop of Canterbury as sites for new mobile phone masts, and churches will discuss the idea in a bid to bring extra income to the clergy. The Church of England has advised 16,000 parish churches, including local congregations, to consider the idea of renting space to phone operating companies. In return, churches could expect to receive around £5,000 a year for allowing a firm to fix a base station to a roof, tower or spire. All local churches have received letters explaining the idea and are expected to discuss the plans at forthcoming church council meetings. The CofE hopes to complete a list of churches willing to co-operate with the plan in January.'

If you would like to object to masts being sited on churches, write directly to the Archbishop of Canterbury, via the Archbishop Council's Telecommunications Working Party:

Church House, Great Smith Street,

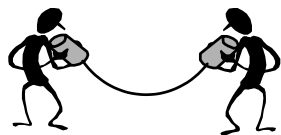
London SW1P 3NZ

Telephone 020 7898 1000

email comments- including any relevant scientific information to:

telecoms@c-of-e.org.uk





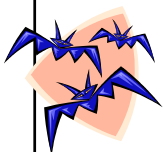
YOUR STORIES



We receive many telephone calls, e-mails, letters and faxes every week from concerned residents. We have compiled below stories of action taken by people who have contacted our office. If their experiences can help you, we can put you in touch with most groups.

Devon ~ In November 2000, campaigners have been fighting two ongoing masts - one in Plymouth and one in Totnes, both to be sited on Safeway Store sites. Safeway were about to sign a national agreement to site masts at all their sites in the UK, however, the Totnes group who are very successful in stopping masts (3 to date) threatened Safeway with a National campaign against them. Safeway have now agreed they will not be installing any more masts on their sites in the UK.

Bats in Herts ~ Orange is trying to put up 2 masts in Chorleywood under PDRs. Grovewood Close residents sent 23 letters and a petition of 141 people objecting to replacing a 5 metre lamp post with an 8 metre phone mast disguised as a telegraph pole and a 2 metre box on the edge of a small wood and opposite a row of houses. Bats found in a neighbour's attic feed in the woods in Grovewood Close and they are a protected species. Experience has shown that bats disappear once a mobile phone mast has been installed near where they nest or feed. It is believed that the microwave radiation interferes with the bats' inbuilt radar and they cannot find their way around and starve or fly into the masts. Residents campaigned to save the bats' environment and have contacted Orange. In September, a Site Controller wrote to a resident to state that he has asked an Orange Health and Safety Adviser to investigate the matter and that the installation will not proceed until this time.



Watford ~ In November 2000, jubilant Orange banner waving residents cheered as a Watford Council meeting refused a 10m mast in Cassiobury Drive, Watford. The Council received a petition of 1,762 signatures and 560 letters opposing the mast. So many residents turned up at the planning meeting that the location had to be moved. They held orange cards printed "Say NO to masts" and were eyeball to eyeball with their councillors. This is clearly the way to get things done. Watford refused the application for the following reasons: its position, size, proximity to homes and schools, the possible health risks and because it would infringe residents' human rights. A Councillor said they would fight any appeal by Orange.

Cobham Surrey ~ In August 2000, angry Cobham residents stopped contractors from putting up a 6m high mobile phone mast and cabinet just metres away from their gardens. Five masts were proposed within a small area, of about 1.23 sq. Km and only 750-900m apart.

Stratford District Council in the Cotswolds didn't stand a chance against the lively campaign fought by residents there. They sent our newsletter to councillors; Sent Tory Councillors the Tory Party Policy paper from last January; Sent Councillors quotes from the Scottish Select Committee; Collected a 500 name petition; Used digital camera technology to create images of how the mast would look; Sent Councillors protest letters to arrive the day before the meeting; Sent 100 household letters encouraging them to write in with their protests; Got five letters of protest in the local press; Obtained letter from local GP concerned about possible health risks; Paid for letter from Alan Meyer pointing out the impact of the High Court Tandridge and Newport cases. Result? Application thrown out nem con. GREAT CAMPAIGN GUYS!



Bedfordshire and Luton Combined Fire Authority voted in June to remove a mast from Amptill Fire Station 'in view of the overwhelming public concern over the siting of the mast', and despite possible contractual problems with Orange.

Liverpool - a mast which has been switched off for 2 years on a Primary School in Speke has been removed by Orange.

Swansea - A 22.5 metre mast which was due to go upon the Duvant Rugby Club ground was stopped in its tracks when the committee withdrew its permission due to the concern of the local people.

Manningtree - In August 2000, One2One took down their mast in Manningtree.

Wealden - After initially being a bit iffy about masts, Wealden District Council refused three applications for masts, one on AONB and two on public concern grounds.





Your Stories contd.....

Gillingham – an Orange microcell was rejected on the grounds that the wrong location was highlighted on the map submitted by Orange and there was a lack of information.



Canterbury - the City Council refused permission for a 15 metre Orange mast and the Appeal by Orange was thrown out on AONB grounds.

Tunbridge Wells – Plans for a mast in Upper Grosvenor Road in the heart of a residential area near the centre of the town, have been abandoned by Orange.

Maidstone – In October 2000, Maidstone Borough Council decided to use their Notice Boards to advise the public on their policy with regard to masts. Three lamp post style applications for Grove Green were refused. A further application for a mast in the Vinters Valley Nature Reserve was withdrawn when the County Council, as landowners, refused consent to build it.



Vatican, Rome: Residents living in Santa Naria di Galera, a northern suburb of Rome, are near a huge cluster of antennae that the Vatican uses to broadcast its radio programmes all over the world. Doctors have found the incidence of tumours here was 30% higher than the national average. One enquiry found the area was subject to electromagnetic energy that was 3 times the legal limit. Protests were made about poor television reception and computers turning on by themselves. The Vatican however, claim their activities are not punishable under law. The area is now under official investigation and the Italian Foreign Minister has been asked to intervene.

Salzburg Resolution: on 7th & 8th June 2000, an International Conference on Cell Tower Siting 'Linking Science & Public Health' was held in Salzburg on behalf of the Government of the state of Salzburg. Eminent scientists and representatives from the fields of medicine, biology, telecommunications discussed radiation, health effects and the precautionary principle. The following conclusions were reached:

Development rights for masts should be subject to a permission procedure that should include information to and active involvement of the local public, the inspection of alternative locations, protection of health and well-being, consideration of conservation, measurement of exposure, consideration of existing sources of exposure and inspection & monitoring after installation.

National database be set up on a government level giving details of base stations and emissions



- Existing & new base stations should exploit all technical possibilities to ensure as low an emission level as possible
- Guidelines for exposure limits should be preliminary as there is no evidence of what a safe level is.

Australia: In April 2000, the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) which is a Government agency called for funding to conduct research on the possible biological effects of exposure to radiofrequency that may be relevant to human health to include effects on vision, hearing, memory loss, headaches, sleeping disorders and neurological effects. Hopefully, other countries will follow suit and that at last some conclusive evidence will be found.

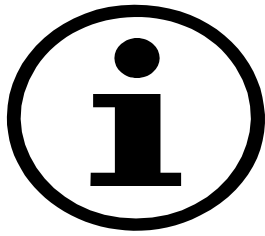
Spain: On 20th May 2000, a Court in Murcia recognised the existence of electromagnetic pollution and the 'right of citizens to a healthy environment, free from these fields'. Ibedorola (the electronics company) were ordered to ensure radiation does not invade the dwelling of the family that took the company to court. They had 6 days to appeal.

Germany: A group in Germany are fighting against 6 aerials to be placed on their kindergarten.

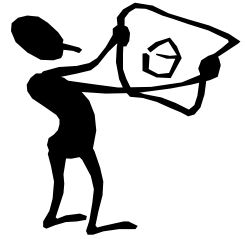
Its the same the whole world over..



INFORMATION ROUND-UP



Thousands of signatures were obtained for a 'day of action' in London on 14 June 2000 and the petitions were presented to the Prime Minister. The people who attended the day then went on to lobby the House of Commons to accept the Stewart Report's recommendations. Julie Matthew did a great job in organising this event.



The Launch of Mast Action U.K. (MAUK)

Mast Action UK was officially launched at a conference in Portcullis House, London on 13 December 2000. Mrs Marion Roe M.P. gave the opening address and Julie Matthew the joint co-ordinator of the campaign introduced Mast Action U.K. Russ Lindsay presented information on the 'Fowey Case'. Dr Gerard Hyland's paper on 'How Exposure to Base Station Radiation can Adversely Affect Humans' was read to the audience. Terry Rutherford, a Governor at West Park Primary School, presented information on the 'Child Health Survey' conducted at West Park and Grange Park. Alan Meyer, Counsel to Mast Action U.K. presented 'Mobile Phone Masts and the Human Rights Act'. Alasdair Phillips, Director of Powerwatch Network presented 'Appropriate Precautionary Approaches to Base Stations'. The audience were invited to ask the panel questions and the conference was formally closed by Christine Mangat, Chair of the meeting and joint co-ordinator of Mast Action U.K. There were various Members of Parliament in attendance, including Glenda Jackson. The only mobile phone operator to send a representative was Orange.

For more information please contact: Julie Matthew PO Box 312, Herts, EN7 5ZE

Telephone: 01707 872920 or e-mail mast.free@virgin.net



ACTION



House Prices

September 2000, the Daily Express reported that a couple had called off their house sale when they discovered that the expected sale price of £42,000 had been slashed to only £15,000 since a phone mast had been erected just 50 feet from the house.

Protesting Pays!

At a seminar held at Wealden District Council, Cellnet said that out of 1,500 applications, 250 had been refused. They had appealed against only 12 of those refusals, and had tried to find alternative sites on the others.

Roy goes to Europe for Help

On 1st August 1994 Roy returned from work to find a 15 metre tower being erected 2 metres from his boundary fence. Despite his protests, the local Planning Authority refused to intervene. The Ombudsmen ruled the Planning Authority were guilty of maladministration, but the mast remained. Roy has taken his complaint to the European Parliament, claiming that his human rights have been violated. In January 2001 the committee on Petition asked for further information on the impact of radio transmitting antennas on the environment and health of citizens. They will re-consider Roy's complaint when they have received it.



NRPB RESEARCH SHOWS POWER LINE LINK TO CHILD LEUKAEMIA.

Research published for the National Radiological Board on March 5th 2001, admits for the first time that higher numbers of child leukaemia cases have been found near power lines where children are exposed to powerful electro-magnetic fields. More than 23,000 Homes in Britain are built beneath power lines.