

Questions for Parish Council: Tuesday 20 August 2019

Re: Proposed base station installation on Main Street Great Gidding.

Questions devised on behalf of Great Gidding Action Group

We understand that the Parish Council will be discussing all current communications and proposed actions between themselves and The Harlequin Group in the consideration of several alternative proposed sites for the base station mast.

Members of the Great Gidding Action Group will be attending the meeting and would like to raise the following questions:

1. We understand that a number of proposed sites have been identified by Harlequin and subsequently alternative sites by members of the Parish Council. May we see the detailed reasons for the rejection of all the proposed sites, may we see the detailed reasons as to why this particular site is ideal in comparison to the other rejected sites. May we also see the weightings given in regard to proximity of Schools, Listed buildings and villages within a conservation area.
2. Is wayleave granted upon installation of a base station mast on an agreed piece of land, and if so, how much is this sum, is it a set figure regardless of ownership. Please clarify if this influences the decision in the selection of a site. For the proposed site in Main Street who would be the beneficiary of the wayleave.

Please let us know how and when this information would be made available.

3. We are not clear about the planning process for the installation of a 15 m base station mast.

We understand that a telecommunications mast *may not* need planning permission as a so called "*permitted development*" but some aspects of a proposed development may be subject to "**prior approval**" i.e. **on matters of design and siting.**

Has the developer sought approval from the planning authority for "prior approval" in our case?

We understand that if this *has* happened, the planning authority has between 6-8 weeks in which to respond. The planning authority must state in this time frame whether prior approval is required and to let the operator know of its decision to allow or refuse approval.

If the set determination time period (typically 6-8 weeks) expires before the planning authority has given its decision to the operator, it can just go ahead without approval as a "permitted development"

The question is has "prior approval" been requested by the developer to the planning authority, and if so, where exactly are we in the timescale for the approval being given or refused?

Please state how and when acceptance/rejection of these views will be communicated to all residents and community groups.

4. What assurances do we have that the installation will not be made larger/higher in the future and exceed 20m which is the point at which planning regulations change. What would the process be should an expansion of the project be proposed? What community liaison and opportunities for objection would be undertaken at this point?
5. By what method can the local residents' and community groups' objections be heard by the District Council? What assurance can we be given that these objections are offered any value or given any weight in the decision-making processes?
6. Please state by what method the local residents and community groups are given feedback about the process on a rolling regular basis.
7. In their capacity as "experts" Harlequin advise councils (both District and Parish) on what is or is not a suitable site - who in turn is the independent expert who advises the councils as to whether this proposal from Harlequin (or another similar organisation) is factually correct. Do residents have access to this expert.
8. If these questions are not answered at the meeting can we agree a formal process for response which would include contact name and number, deadline for response and follow up meeting date at which answer would be formally given.