

GREAT AND LITTLE GIDDING PARISH COUNCIL

Village Hall, Main Street, Great Gidding,
Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, PE28 5NU
Email: ggparishcouncil@outlook.com

Carolyn Wilson MRTPI
Head of Town Planning
The Harlequin Group
Rutland House,
5 Allen Road
Livingston
West Lothian
EH 54 6TQ

By Email

31 July 2019

Dear Ms Wilson,

PROPOSED BASE STATION INSTALLATION - MAIN STREET, GREAT GIDDING, CAMBRIDGESHIRE, PE28 5NU

Reference: Your Letter 87555 dated 18 July 2019.

Thank you for your letter at Reference. Please note that this letter constitutes the initial response from Great and Little Gidding Parish Council to ensure we respond to the Harlequin proposal within the stipulated 14-day period following receipt of your proposal. Please note that we have been in communication with our local County and District councils, but that the date of issue of your proposal in the midst of the holiday season, has hampered engagement with our local government organizations; however, please be under no misunderstanding that Great and Little Gidding Parish Council will **object in the very strongest terms** to the proposed siting of the base station and 15 metre mast in such a sensitive village location, as detailed in your proposal. We intend to appeal through every avenue available to us to ensure that Harlequin and Cornerstone conducts a review of this ill-considered and environmentally damaging proposal and looks at alternative options. I understand that you have received other responses from extremely concerned local residents, who live very close to the site of the proposed base station.

Great and Little Gidding Parish Council concerns are summarized as follows:

- The proposed site on the Main Street of Great Gidding of a 15-metre mast and Base Station will be highly visible and extremely unsightly and will damage the environment in a Conservation area. Moreover, the mast will be fully exposed in view of numerous houses and will not be screened at all as it will tower above any trees in the area. The mast will completely blight the outlook of houses along that part of Main Street - some of which are listed buildings.
- The site is very close to the village primary school. The footpath to the school entrance runs alongside the proposed site and the possible effects of radiation will be of serious concern to everyone in the area including the parents of the children many of whom attend the school from outlying rural areas.

- The proposed site is adjacent, and in close proximity, to a site of potential archaeological interest.

Furthermore, we strongly dispute your statement that the proposed location of the Base Station and mast is the “best solution”. It is certainly not the best solution for the many concerned residents of Great Gidding for a host of environmental and other, potentially serious, medical reasons. We would request that your site selection team review the alternatives again and seek a much less intrusive option. There are a number of potential locations for the Base Station and mast on higher ground within the Parish, but situated away from habitation and close to minor roads that should be considered. Siting the mast and supporting infrastructure in the centre of a populated Conservation village close to a school is absolutely unacceptable and tantamount to environmental vandalism. For example, we are aware of a site of a former communications mast (since removed) within the Parish that is located on higher ground and was used to provide communications for Cambridge County Council; this site is close to a minor road, is easily accessible, and presumably had a power supply into the site.

We do understand the requirement for better mobile communications especially in rural areas and we appreciate why O2 would wish to enhance their mobile coverage. However, with regard to the Smart Metering programme, Great Gidding does have excellent mobile reception on the EE network and we understand that the latest generation of Smart Meters can operate with any available network.

Please be reassured that Great and Little Gidding Parish Council, in conjunction with local landowners and the local District and County Councils, would welcome the opportunity to engage with Harlequin to find a better environmental solution. We are prepared to help your review and try to find an alternative solution for the Base station in our Parish. However, we must reiterate that the current proposed location for the Base Station and mast is absolutely unacceptable.

We look forward to your response.

Nicholas HILL

Chairman

For and on behalf of Great and Little Gidding Parish Council

Copied separately to:

The Right Hon Shailesh Vara	Member of Parliament for North West Cambridgeshire
Councillor Ian Gardener	Cambridge County Council
Councillor Tim Alban	Huntingdonshire District Council
The Conservation Officer	Huntingdon District Council
Mr William Craven	Milton Estates