



# Mobile Phone Mast Action Letter No. 5



## Editorial by Trudy Dean

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](mailto:mast.free@virgin.net)

For further copies of this leaflet or Mobile Phone Mast Action Letters 1 - 4 please contact the Liberal Democrat Office, Kent County Council, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XQ. Tel: 01622 694239, Fax: 01622 694219,

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contacts

## What to do if a mast is proposed near you

We have been contacted by a huge number of people over the past couple of years regarding mobile phone masts. The main question people ask is 'What can I do?' Below is an edited version of guidance notes produced by **OFFMAST** on 'What to do if a mast is proposed near you.'

### **DON'T PANIC!**

### **STAY FOCUSED!**

Write down the details from any Site Notice.

- Hold a public meeting as soon as possible. Invite your local & county councillors, MP and local press. Get names, addresses and phone numbers of residents who are willing and able to help in any capacity e.g. making banners posters and placards, distributing leaflets and canvassing neighbours.
- Lobby your local councillors and MP- get them to put pressure on the council and write to add their objections to the proposal. Attend planning meetings and raise the case of Newport Borough Council v Secretary of State for Wales (1998) which refers to "Genuine public fear, even if that fear is irrational and not based on evidence is a material planning consideration".
- Remember that you do have rights under the Human Rights Act of 1998 which became law in October 2000. In particular, under Article 1 of the First Protocol, an individual has the right to the enjoyment of their property. The environmental impact of a planning decision on a neighbouring property brings into play the right for respect for home, privacy and family life (Article 8).
- Councils can serve an Article 4 Direction on the mobile phone company which means that full planning permission is needed rather than Permitted Development Rights, and the broader grounds of objection including potential health risk should apply.
- In April 2000 the Independent Expert Group on mobile phones produced their report, "the Stewart Report", and a copy of the Summary and Recommendations can be obtained from their website ([www.iegmp.org.uk/IEGMPtxt.htm](http://www.iegmp.org.uk/IEGMPtxt.htm)). This is extremely useful when citing the proposals and sections relating to planning issues (sections 1.30 to 1.43)
- Contact your Council planning officer dealing with the application and obtain a full copy of the application -plans, reason and technical justification for the proposed mast. Make sure that you ask the planning officer for the details of alternative sites that the applicant has considered and discounted, because if the applicant has not considered alternative sites this is grounds for refusal by the Council.
- Write to the council formally objecting to the mast - give reasoned arguments and cite the Human Rights Act 1998 and public health concerns.
- Tell all your neighbours to write and lobby, especially when any formal notification is received from the council asking if you have any objections. Remember to write within the consultation period, and individual letters are best.
- Start a petition against the mast "We the undersigned wish to lodge our strongest opposition to this mast and demand that the Council reject the application" or similar wording. Arrange for this to be handed to the mayor or Council Leader in good time and with local press present.
- Form an action group with a small nucleus of key members and contact all your local newspapers, they are often willing to cover such local stories with photocalls especially if you have banners etc. and children at the site. Try to get coverage over a number of weeks and get new angles on the story each week.
- Contact your local radio station and regional television company to see if they are prepared to cover the story.
- If time permits, attend your local council meetings and voice your opposition.
- Share all information. Get your action group to meet on a regular (weekly?) basis to discuss progress and your strategy for the coming weeks.
- Arrange a site meeting with the planning officer and a small number of residents, remember the planning officer is not your enemy.
- Write to the mobile phone company - demand to know why they want a mast in your area, make them prove that it is necessary. Remember that these companies advertise that they already cover 98% of the population
- Visit "The Link" or Dixons shop and check on their computerised records whether the reception for your postcode area is good or better. If it is "excellent outdoors" then challenge the company as to need for the mast.
- Get Circular 4/99 Planning for Telecommunications and the Code of Best Practice from the D.E.T.R.- phone on 0870 1226 236.
- The Council for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE) has produced a very useful booklet "Telecoms Development" (ISBN no 0 946044 90 2) which gives campaigners very helpful guidance and tips. This is available for £3 by contacting the CPRE on tel 020 7976 6433.

For further information please e-mail Tony Butler of **OFFMAST**: [i8butler@uk.packardbell.org](mailto:i8butler@uk.packardbell.org)

## Mobile Phone Mast Petition

### Supported by Phil Willis MP and Trudy Dean, Leader of Kent County Council Liberal Democrat Group

Planning Minister Nick Raynsford has ignored responses to his own consultation exercise on changes to planning laws on mobile phone masts. He has announced he does not propose to implement the major recommendation of the Scottish Parliamentary Inquiry and the Stewart Panel, both of whom pressed for all new masts and adaptations to existing masts to go through the full planning application procedure. Instead, Mr Raynsford has merely said that the universally unpopular Permitted Development Rights procedures for masts under 15 metres, will in future allow for 'stronger' public consultation requirements over a longer period of time i.e. 56 days.

These changes mean that, though residents will have longer to object, Planning Authorities will still not be obliged to take their objections into account. What is more under the Permitted Development Rights procedure,

applications on which Planning Authorities have been unable to make a decision within the time limit, will automatically receive planning consent. This is an open invitation for Mobile Phone operators to stretch out the consultation period to by pass local concerns.

The all party Local Government Association, which represents all Planning Authorities in the country, replied to Nick Raynsford's consultation paper by urging him to require full planning permission for all new applications.

We believe that everyone campaigning on mobile phone masts will regard the Government's proposed changes to the planning system on the siting of mobile phone masts as totally unacceptable. A committee of MPs has described the proposals as 'failing to address public concerns about possible risks to health' and says 'it is not surprising that all concerned are thoroughly frustrated with the complexity and arbitrariness of the planning approval system'.

We urge campaigners to join forces and sign up to the petition below. We will present the petition to Government and put pressure on them to support ordinary people all over the country who are suffering the effects of phone masts within feet of their homes and their children's schools.

**'We the undersigned call on the Government to implement the recommendation of Sir William Stewart's Independent Expert Group on Mobile Phones and require all new mobile phone masts and modifications to existing masts to require full planning consent'**

If you would like to sign up please visit Website <http://freespace.virginnet.co.uk/mast.action/>

If you do not have access to the internet please telephone the Liberal Democrat Office on 01622 694239 and we will send you a paper copy of the petition.

If you represent a group who support the petition's aim, could you please let us know how many members you have.

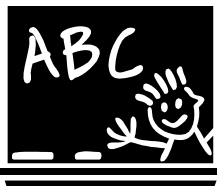
## A Sample of Mobile Phone Mast Petition quotes received so far:

“I wish to fully endorse the Liberal Democrat’s call on the government to implement the recommendation of Sir William Stewart’s Independent Expert Group on Mobile Phones. The Stewart inquiry was set up by government due to huge public concern on this issue. The failure of government to act upon the recommendations of this report can only be perceived as inflammatory and negligent in a situation which concerns not only potential health risks but in many cases a gross physical intrusion into the everyday lives of ordinary people. The mobile phone mast problem is following the classical route of many public health issues we have seen in the past: asbestosis, BSE, GM foods to name but a few - exacerbated by the ignorance of government who chose only to look at the financial opportunities. If the government fails to act and adopt the precautionary principle, simply saying “sorry” in years to come will not be enough. Wishing every success to the Liberal Democrats for continuing to highlight this very important public health issue.”



‘As three ward councillors who have just fought and lost against the siting of phone masts just feet from the windows of elderly persons flats on the the grounds of no loss of visual amennity! despite the fears of local residents we support the petition.’

‘It is an appalling waste of government funds to set up such an eminent panel of experts under the Chairmanship of Sir William Stewart, then to virtually ignore his findings and recommendations.’



‘Children must be given the opportunity to be educated in as safe an environment as possible. We had hoped that the government would agree. Keep in touch Tony, parents will not forget! ‘

‘We would like to emphasize the importance of introduction of a new legislation on already existing transmitter masts operating for tens of years and seeing them decommissioned.’

‘It is very stressful and the battle, which commenced in November, is taking its toll already on my husband who is 70.’



‘The government has ignored the responses to their own consultation.’

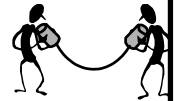
‘Minimise potential harm to every one, rather than minimise their costs. My number one priority and my company’s number one priority is Health, Safety and the Environment, why isn't it the mobile phone companies when it comes to sitting masts?’



‘How can you not implement the Stewart recommendations for the precautionary procedure - has the lesson of NRPB and power lines , BSE etc, taught you nothing?’



# You MAST Be Joking!

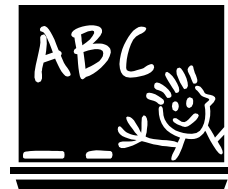


We receive many telephone calls, e-mails, letters and faxes every week from concerned residents. In our last action letter we compiled stories of action taken by people who have contacted our office. We have detailed some more stories below. If their experiences can help you, we can put you in touch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

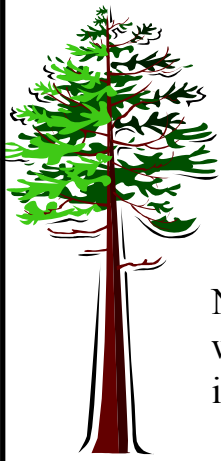


One group in Accrington, Lancashire are fighting One-to-One who wish to site a base station on a community garden that has involved 18 months of planning and an outlay of £20,000. Work had just begun on the garden when One-to-One notified Hyndburn Borough Council that an 8 metre mast was to be sited there. Under current law the application was accepted by the Development Committee despite a 548 signature petition, 18 independent letters of objection and a letter of concern from the headmaster of the local secondary school. For more information on this campaign visit website <http://www.thefreeinternet.co.uk/roby>.

A group in Norwich has been formed as a response to a surreptitious upgrading of an existing TV relay station located approximately 150 metres from a school. In November 2000 an employee of the school noticed vans with Vodafone signs on them near the mast and alerted the headteacher. The mast had been standing between two schools for 31 years. Initially it was a TV and Radio Broadcasting site. In 1984 the rights were transferred to NTL, who in 1985 turned it into a base station with antennas, network operators then added on. The campaigners involved the local press who in turn started their own campaign and gained the support of their local MP. The group are in the process of meeting with NTL to try and convince them to move the mast to an uninhabited area.



A playgroup leader in Lydd, Kent has challenged a plan for a mobile phone mast near her premises. Protesters turned out on a cold Tuesday afternoon to endorse a protest that a 50 ft mobile phone mast should not be put up in Kitewell Lane, Lydd. BT Cellnet's plan was rejected by Lydd Town Council and Shepway Council. A site meeting was held for the Planning Inspectorate, to gather facts following an appeal against the refusal. One resident complained that the mast would be about 75 yards from their back garden. There are at least 200 children at the nearby Lydd House Playgroup. The original application was turned down by Shepway District Council in June 2000. The Council objected to the proposal giving the reason "current scientific research gives rise to doubt about the safety of base stations because of the possible effects of low density microwave radiation on human health, and given the proximity of existing and proposed residential development and a nursery school and the possible conflict with Lydd Airport the proposal is considered unacceptable".

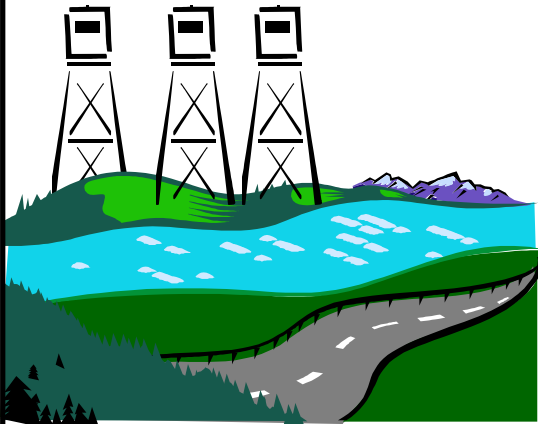


Q: When is a tree NOT a tree??

A: When it is a Mobile Phone Mast!!

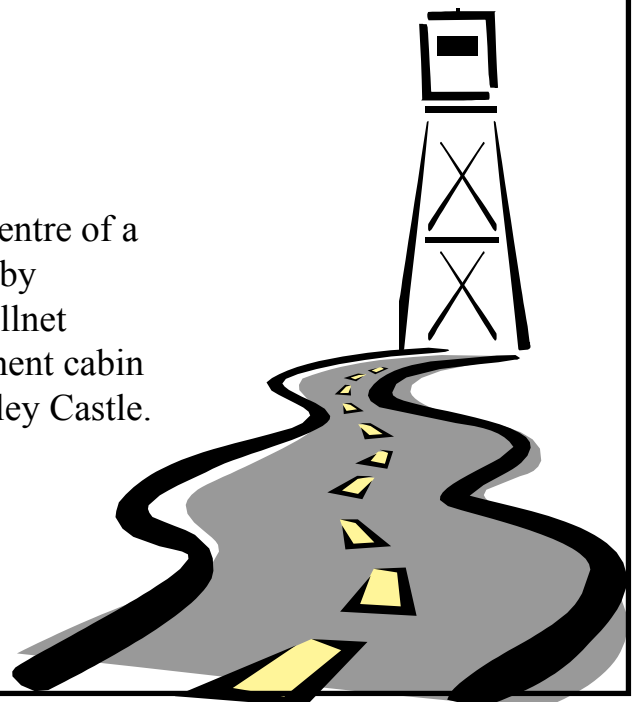
Neighbours living in a quiet cul-de-sac in Nut Bush Lane, Torbay watched in horror as a 15 ft tall mast, disguised as evergreen tree, went up in the corner of a childrens play area.

Families are furious that a blunder by Shepway Council could result in a mobile mast being put up near their homes. Residents of Holywell Avenue, Folkestone, opposed the planning application by One-to-One to put up the 42 ft mast and were supported by the Local Authority. Shepway Council was supposed to write to the phone company within 42 days if it opposed the mast but it did not reply until 43 days - meaning the phone company can legally go ahead with its plans. The families have lodged a complaint with the Council Ombudsman, accusing the Local Authority of gross negligence.



Telecom companies have been prevented from expanding in the Lake District amid fears that a forest of mobile phone masts could end up scarring the countryside. The government ordered the moratorium after environmentalist warned that up to 500 new structures could spring up in Areas of Natural Beauty which are provisionally listed for World Heritage status. The National Trust, which owns a quarter of the area, wants the Secretary of State to call in planning applications for 19 new masts and to order amendments to two existing ones. It said that because applications were considered individually the National Park Authority could not take their overall impact into account.

A plan to site a giant mobile phone mast in the centre of a busy dual carriageway was branded “ludicrous” by Birmingham City’s Deputy Lord Mayor. BT Cellnet proposed to erect a 15 metre mast and an equipment cabin on the central reservation in Shenley Lane, Weoley Castle.





# TETRA



Over the past few months we have been contacted by a number of people concerned about TETRA masts. We have put together a selection of information below which we hope you will find of use:

TETRA seems to have many names: TERrestrial Trunk Radio or Trans European Trunk Radio Access. Simon Best writer of Electromagnetic Hazard and Therapy reports: A new mobile phone communication standard for the emergency services and commercial companies is called TETRA. This potentially dangerous system is going to be added to mobile phone masts and maybe added to the one near you. In February 1999, Simoco, the UK based digital radio specialists, won a contract to supply dolphin telecom with 10,000 tetra mobile phone handsets. The engineers who thought it up have chosen a TDMA "Time Domain Multiple Access" system which pulses at 17 hz. Both the handset and base transmitters are more powerful than normal cellular ones "to give a more secure mode of communications". We believe TETRA is potentially dangerous because the system emits electromagnetic pulses at 17 hz, a frequency which is known to affect brain activity. The most well known effect is that light flashing 17 times per second triggers epileptic attacks in susceptible people.

Hospital equipment is far more susceptible to interference from TETRA due to the 17 hz pulsing. Much of the equipment which monitors the activity of human physiology will not be able to detect the difference between body signals and external signals.

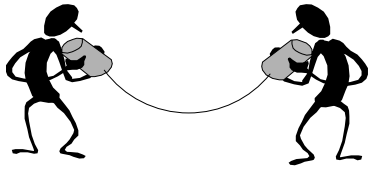
The brain also accepts and acts upon signals from inside and outside the body. 17 hz signals are likely to disturb normal brain functioning in ways that are difficult to predict. Car remote locking systems and some window holder intruder alarms have already been shown to be largely ineffective near base stations with TETRA equipment installed.

**For more information please contact Simon Best PO Box 2039, Shoreham by the Sea, BN43 5JD website: <http://www.EM-hazard-therapy.com> e-mail: [simonbest@em-hazard-therapy.com](mailto:simonbest@em-hazard-therapy.com) premium rate (£1.50 per minute) helpline: 0906 4010237.**

The contract to provide the airwaves service was awarded to BT in February 2000 by the Police Information Technology Organisation (PITO) on behalf of the Home Office. The service is based on the European open standards TETRA. The airwaves service will effectively replace 51 individual radio schemes in the Police Service.

It will replace 50 individual schemes in the Fire Service and 45 individual schemes in the Ambulance Service, as well as all the other radio schemes being used by the other Public Safety Organisations. BT state that "if one selective site is unavailable it may be necessary to implement three sites to achieve the necessary coverage. Areas of no coverage are simply not acceptable to the Police or the Emergency Services. There is no formula to determine the number of radio sites necessary for adequate coverage. It depends on the topology of the area coupled with the respected Emergency Services local coverage. Where possible, airwave service will use existing sites and masts, provided they are positioned to enable the necessary radio frequency coverage." For further information please telephone BT Quadrant on 02079327481 or visit website [www.bt.com/airwave](http://www.bt.com/airwave).





## Your Stories on TETRA



The Forest of Dean - A consent was given for a mast at East Batch Mede enclosure, Edgend. But proposals for masts at Lydney Telephone Exchange, St Briavels Common and Lower Bouldson in Newent were refused. Plans for masts at Lower Lane, Berry Hill, and the Forest of Dean Equestrian Centre in Shackhouse Lane, Yorkley were withdrawn. Campaigners presented information from Powerwatch which was dismissed by Forest Planning Officers. Head of the Development Control at the Forest Council said that 'every tarmaced road in the area had to be covered by TETRA masts for the system to work.'



Campaign for Planning Sanity had been looking at applications for masts that have been passed recently in the Planning Office in Stockport. That work involved searching through lots of planning applications. By accident they came across several applications that have come under the description of 'Colinear antennae'. On further reading they have turned out to be TETRA masts and they have been passed without complaint.

In April 2001 Mendip District Council told BT, who wanted to build TETRA transmission equipment in Wells Street, Hilton, and Charter House, it would continue to veto any further applications until health fears had been allayed.

**SUCCESS**

In Devon BT applied for planning permission in December 2000 to erect a 25 metre TETRA mast on the South Downs (being the highest point overlooking Brixham). The application was originally for a 40 metre mast but the height was reduced just prior to the planning meeting. BT posted notification of the application on a post at the end of a lane (where no-one was walking at the time due to the dreadful weather). The lane had turned into a muddy bog so the place was virtually deserted throughout November, December and January. The application was refused by the Planning Committee on the grounds of the impact the development would have on an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the Coastal Preservation Area, and the absence of information regarding the overall requirements for providing a new service. BT is reapplying for planning permission. The agency representing BT intend to take an extending platform to the site and raise it to the height of the mast. Their intention is to make observations of the impact on the area. Local residents had no idea that plans had been submitted for a mast.

A local resident designed a leaflet and a local businessman had 9,000 copies printed (the cost to him personally was £400). Since then, many people have been contacting the businessman and sending letters of objection to Torbay Planning Department. The campaigners' next step is to hold a public meeting in order to put some pressure on the Planning Committee to refuse planning permission when BT reapply. An example of the printed leaflet can be obtained from the Liberal Democrat Office e-mail: [libdem@kent.gov.uk](mailto:libdem@kent.gov.uk).

**ACTION**

### **Stop Press**

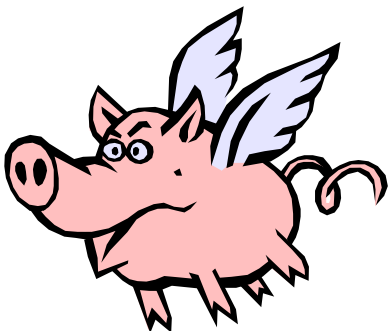
The Western Daily Press reported in April 2001 that Police Forces are due to take delivery of new TETRA radios next year have voiced their concern about the safety of the system. It has interfered with air traffic control, breath tests and hospital equipment on a trial by Lancashire Police. Officers representatives said there was also concern about the health implications of daily use of a TETRA set. Both Gloucestershire and Avon and Somerset are due to begin using the TETRA system next year. Police Federations in both areas said that while they 'welcomed potential benefits', they were also 'anxious to have safety concerns addressed'. BT have begun applying for permission for more than 100 super masts in the West, despite safety fears raised by campaigners. Avon and Somerset has been given £14 million by the government to implement the TETRA system. The Police Forces Staff Organisation said that the 'phone call quality of the set must not override safety'.



### **Extract from Hansard on 'Airwave Communications System' - TETRA**

The Health and Safety Executive have conducted an independent assessment, commissioned by the Lancashire Police Federation, of the potential health risks associated with the airwave service. The report concludes that, on the basis of available information and on calculations carried out, the new portable and mobile transmitters should not affect the health of persons using the equipment. The Defence Evaluation and Research Agency (DERA) have begun preparatory work for the investigation. DERA will report on progress every quarter. The final report should be available in early May 2002, after the main study has been concluded. The work allows further research to be carried out in the light of the results the main study. The report from this additional study, if it is required, should be available by August 2002. The National Radiological Protection Board (NRPB) have commissioned a review from their Advisory Group on Non-Ionising Radiation (AGNIR). The AGNIR are well advanced in the process of preparing material for their report. The AGNIR report will require clearance by the NRPB Board before it is released. It is anticipated that the report will be available for the NRPB's Board meeting in July if not sooner.

If, during the course of DERA and NRPBs studies, any issues arise which suggest a risk to health, it will be made public without awaiting the publication of the final report.





## INFORMATION ROUND-UP

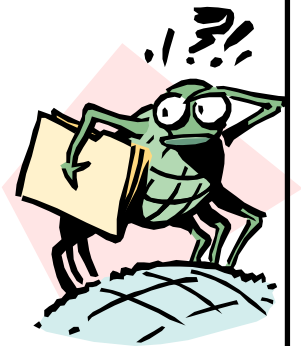
**GLA Action on the Mobile Phone Masts:** On 21 March 2001 the Greater London Authority supported a Liberal Democrat motion that condemned the government for failing to support the recommendations of the Stewart report.

**Kent County Council Meeting of Mobile Phone Mast Action Groups:** On 5 March 2001 a meeting was called to explain the County Council's policy and to share experience and knowledge on telecommunication given the breath of information amongst the various action groups. Trudy Dean attended the meeting and a full copy of the minutes can be obtained by e-mailing [libdem@kent.gov.uk](mailto:libdem@kent.gov.uk).

**Meeting between Kent County Council, Mobile Phone Companies and Confederation of Electronics Industries:** On 5 April 2001 a meeting was held as a follow up to the above meeting. Trudy Dean was not invited to attend the meeting. However, a full copy of the minutes can be obtained by e-mailing [libdem@kent.gov.uk](mailto:libdem@kent.gov.uk).

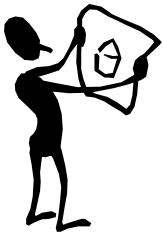
### Who Is Telling the Truth?

In April an article appeared in the Daily Express claiming that the government is said to be in negotiations to return some of the money for the 3G licences to the bidders. Trudy Dean wrote to the DTI asking for confirmation of this story. The DTI said that the story was untrue. Trudy Dean has sent the DTI response to the Daily Express and has asked them to look into the matter further. We await their response with interest.



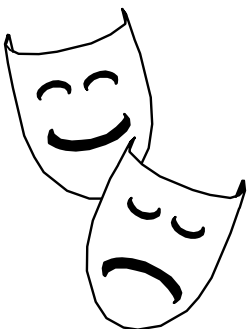
### Funny Goings On.....

A warning by the Department of Health about the dangers for using mobile phones has been changed after pressure from the Department of Trade and Industry. It is claimed that the Trade Department was worried that the warning would scare parents and damage the multi-billion pound telecommunications industry. This information came to light two weeks after MPs urged the government to toughen up on the planning restrictions on mobile phone masts. The Department of Health drew up a leaflet containing advice from the Chief Medical Officer, following the recommendations of the Stewart report. The leaflet recommended that under-16s should not use mobiles at all but gave guidelines for minimising the risk if they had to. Millions of copies of the leaflet 'mobile and health', were printed and were due to be sent to every household. Education Secretary David Blunkett was so concerned he wrote to every school urging them to ban under-16s from using mobiles, except in emergencies. By the time the leaflet was published in December last year, however, the warning had been 'toned down'. Instead of being sent directly to homes, the leaflet is available only in shops, which are required to stock it, but not display it.



### Siting of Telecommunications Masts Bill

This Bill was due for its second reading on Friday 27 April 2001, along with other Private Members Bills, however, Members objected to it receiving a second reading then. It was due to have its second reading on 11 May. As a result of the delay there was not enough Parliamentary time left for this Bill to go through. However, we will be campaigning for it to be a priority when the new Parliament is in place.



### **Mast Sharing**



It has been reported that holders of 3G licences may share masts to cut costs. The five holders of UK third generation (3G) mobile phone licences have held informal discussions on sharing infrastructure in an attempt to cut the more than £20 billion cost of rolling out new network throughout the country. Industry sources have confirmed that all five network operators would consider sharing 3G infrastructure such as masts, cabling and power supply. Several operators already share mobile phone masts and are planning to expand their relationships as they upgrade networks for the launch of commercial UMTS, or 3G, services from late 2002.

### **National Roaming**

The Office of Telecommunications Effective Competition Review: Mobile, issued by the Director General of Telecommunications February 2001 states that “National Roaming Agreements (NRA) in France, Italy and Sweden have some kind of mandatory Roaming Regulations. ART, the French Telecommunications regulator mandated National Roaming on 2G networks for new entrant 3G, as has Oftel in the UK. AGCOM, the Italian Telecommunications Regulator, requires those operators designated as having SMP in the mobile sector to offer National Roaming facilities to operators without national coverage. This applied equally to 2G and 3G networks. Similarly, Sweden required mobile licensees to offer National Roaming to operators without national coverage. Viag telecom, Germany’s newest mobile operator has an agreement with Mannesmann allowing it to utilise the latter’s network where it does not possess coverage itself. This agreement is outside any regularity framework.”



### **Clean Up Your Electromagnetic Environment**



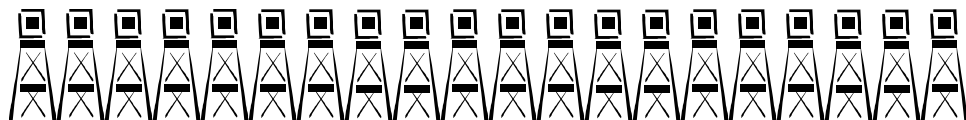
The Childhood Leukaemia Paper has finally been published. The citation is: historical evidence that residential electrification caused the emergence of the childhood leukaemia peak. S.Milham,E.M.Ossiander.Medical Hypothesis (2001)56(3),290-295.

Trudy Dean asked Alastair Philips of Powerwatch to advise how people can “clean up their electromagnetic environment” as this paper suggests. (1) go back to earth metal conduit (pipe) for all house wiring. This reduces the internal house electric fields to virtually zero. It is difficult to do this on already wired buildings, but screened cable is almost as good. The Milham paper implies that it is the electric field that is the problem. (2) install “demand switches” for difficult to rewire high e-field situations. These remove almost all the voltage when everything on a circuit is turned off (reduces the 240 volts to a few volts). Good for lowering night-time exposure. Further information can be obtained from Powerwatch’s “killing fields in the home” book £8.50 including postage and packaging, payable to Jean Philips and sent with mailing address to 2 Tower Road, Sutton, Ely, Cambs, CB6 2QA.

**Will the introduction of 3G phones mean existing masts need to be altered/upgraded/made bigger or smaller?**

Alastair Philips of Powerwatch Answers:-

Masts numbers will rise by a factor of at least fivefold! New masts will be lower power, however. Also 3g masts will not pass and will be much less likely to biologically active.





## More Useful Information

The **Australian Communications Industry Forum** has a draft **new code of conduct** on the siting of mobile phone masts. It states that:-

1. Suppliers should respond to specific information requests from the community in a timely manner.
2. All minimum requirements must be completed and the consultation process concluded before any installation or site changes commence.

There is a large appendix on the use of the precautionary principle. Visit <http://www.acif.org.au>.

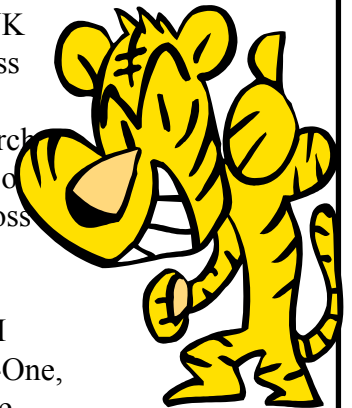


### Interesting Reading.....

The following is an extract from a letter written by George Carlo former Head of the Wireless Technology Research Group (WTR) and Journalist Martin Schram to the Editor of US Today. It is about the US Congress GAO report on mobile phones “the NCI study of 782 brain cancer patients published in the New England Journal of Medicine candidly noted that “a much larger sample would be required” to properly detect cell-phone radiation links. The other US study, of just 469 brain cancer patients, failed to mention its own size limitation when published in the journal of the American Medical Association. It also dismissed as statistically insignificant its most chilling findings: **“a doubling of cancer risk in 35 patients in a small sub-group who had neuroepithelial tumours, which are near the side of the head, close to a cell phone antennae.”**

### Mobile Operators Respond

In a press release issued by the Federation of the Electronic Industry (FEI) the UK mobile phone operators pledged commitment to best practice standards to address public concerns about mobile phone masts, in co-operation with the DETRs intentions regarding new planning guidance. The press release issued on 16 March 2001 confirmed that mobile phone operators have already announced a package of ten commitments, including best practice siting standards, to be put in place across the UK to better address public concern. Key elements of this initiative are: improved transparency, more publicly available information, and improved communication and consultation with Local Authorities and the public. The FEI represents the five mobile phone operators (BT Cellnet, Hutchinson 3G, One-to-One, Orange and Vodafone). A full copy of the press release can be obtained from the FEI telephone 020 7331 2029.



### Did You Know?

Dozens of mobile telephone masts in need of repair could not be reached due to foot and mouth outbreaks. Many masts are in effected countryside. The outbreak has affected all mobile networks as regular maintenance has been cancelled in affected areas and building programmes have been postponed. One company said that the outbreak was forcing it to stop its building programme.



## Health Papers & Information



Extracts from U.S. Defence Intelligence Agency Documents from 1972-1983.

Ref: DST-1810S-076-76 March 1976. "If the more advanced nations of the West are strict in the enforcement of stringent exposure standards, there could be unfavourable effects on industrial output and military functions".

Ref: DST-1810S-074-76 March 1976 "Personnel exposed to microwave radiation below thermal levels experience more neurological, cardiovascular, and haemodynamic disturbances than do their unexposed counterparts. Some of the ..... effects attributed to exposure include bradycardia, hypotension, and changes in EKG indices." "Subjects exposed to microwave

### Information available from the Liberal Democrat Office:

Quote from Swiss Re Document (published in 1997)

Exposure to pulsed high-frequency electromagnetic field during waking affects human sleep EEG - Reto Huber, Thomas Graf, Kimberly A. Cote, Lutz Wittmann, Eva Gallmann, Daniel Matter, Jürgen Schuderer, Niels Kuster, Alexander A. Borbély and Peter Achermann

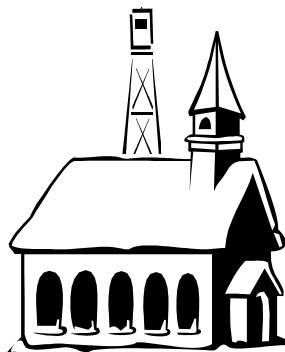


A report on electromagnetic hypersensitivity and health risks from electric and magnetic fields-research review and evaluation - final report from the Work Group from the Swedish Council for Work Life Research - by Ulf Bergqvist, Lena Hillert and Elisabeth Birke - dated November 2000. An English translation of the summary can also be obtained by e-mailing [ulber@ikp.liu.se](mailto:ulber@ikp.liu.se).

The paper: Effects of Microwave Fields from Mobile Phones on cell growth by Sianette Kwee, Department of Medical Biochemistry, University of Aarhus, (Denmark).



Its the same the whole world over..



Mobile phone masts have been banned from all churches in Italy. The decision was taken by the Roman Catholic Bishop Conference which is second only in authority to the Pope. It is thought that the Roman Catholic Church in England may introduce a similar ban. So far in Britain it has mainly been Anglican Churches which have had masts erected. A Church can earn up to £8,000 a year in rent by allowing an antennae to be put up on their spire.

**HIGH COURT GRANT LEAVE TO CHALLENGE HEALTH ISSUES ON MOBILE PHONE MASTS**

***GATLEY (STOCKPORT) PHONE MAST***

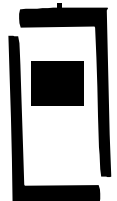
The Honourable Mr Justice Ouseley in a written decision made yesterday (21st May) granted local resident Julie Smith leave for judicial review on the primary question relating to the 'perceived' health risks from mobile phone masts. This is the first step in ensuring that not only the Gatley mast, but **all** phone masts are subjected to a full consideration of the potential health effect on local residents.

Chris Maile CfPS Chair said on hearing the news **"This is good not simply for the people of Gatley, but for every community nationwide that is adversely affected by phone masts. At last we have the opportunity of debating this issue in the courts, we are confident of winning, and thereby ensuring that at long last local communities will be ensured that health effects are taken into account in deciding mast applications"**.

The High Court judges observations on granting the application are:  
***"It is arguable that actual and perceived health risks are relevant to siting of these masts, and that the latter was not taken into account"***.

Other issues in the case relate to Human Rights, and whether the local community were given sufficient opportunity of putting their case to the planning committee, and the absence of any information relating to alternative sites. The Claimant now has 7 days in which to lodge the formal application for judicial review. However in the mean time talks are being held with Stockport Council over the issue.

For more information telephone CfPS 0161 959 0999.



**SUCCESS**



A Spanish electric company has been sentenced by the Provincial Court of Murcia, who has protected the inhabitants of a house affected by the electromagnetic emissions originated by a transformer of the firm. The judicial decision, that confirms a previous sentence of a Court, is the first of this kind that considers that it is not the affected citizen who must demonstrate magnetic emissions to be hazardous but it is up to the energy supplying company to prove that they are absolutely safe. The Magistrates have considered the existence of electromagnetic "invasion" proved on the basis of the measures taken, and they think this is fact essentially to base on it a decision which does not question whether or not the pollution has hurt the inhabitants. For the Court it was enough to consider that the fact of an electromagnetic invasion does exist, to turn upside down the burden of proof and to determine it is the supplying company who must prove that, as the company stated, there is no danger at all in the emissions from the transfer. For this reason, because of the impossibility of providing clear scientific data, the judges sentenced in favour of the demanders and against the company. The sentence could have been other if the demanders had asked for compensation for the damage. In that case, they would have to prove sufficiently both the damage and its precedence. The sentence of the Murcian judges over affects the married couple who in 1997 sued the company, but no doubt it opens a new way for all those people who consider themselves affected for this kind of pollution and who have claimed in vain the protection of the administration against an invisible aggression which is very little know but rises hot arguments among those who believe it causes damage and even cancer, and of those who state it is safe.