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18 October 2022

Dear Martyn

Thanks very much for the reply to our 22nd August Stody with Hunworth Parish Council response, which you emailed to our Clerk, Kerry Harris, on Friday 7th October. Although it arrived after our 08.00hrs deadline on 7/10, we circulated it as hard copy to all attendees at our PC Meeting on Monday 10th October.

I have to inform you that the majority view of Stody with Hunworth Parish Council, and those parishioners who attended that meeting, is that your reply did NOT answer all the questions we set out on 22nd August. Namely, you failed to provide the data we requested from your “extensive investigations” at the possible mast site to the right of the top end of the metalled Field Lane track, in front of the line of conifers.

The Field Lane site on Stody Estate land, stands 10m higher than the Common site. It has almost uninterrupted sightlines across the field which encircles the Village Hall. However, a mast located in front of the line of conifers at the top end of Field Lane, would be visible to very few houses because of the lie of the land and a big copse of trees directly above the six Coronation Cottages on King Street in Hunworth. Locating the mast at the top of Field Lane would surely benefit houses in both Hunworth and Stody, more effectively than a mast on Hunworth Common?

I need to update you on developments here in Hunworth since late August. A group called *The Friends of Hunworth Common* has been established. They have set up an online petition which I understand has circa 450 signatures so far, protesting at the proposed “industrialisation” of Hunworth Common which is a Norfolk County Wildlife Site, and has ancient woodland and commons protection rights. As you already know, the *Friends of Hunworth Common* have brought our local North Norfolk MP, Duncan Baker, into this debate. Feelings are running pretty high round here. As far as I can tell, the majority of residents, whilst keen to have a better mobile signal, firmly believe that Hunworth Common is NOT the right location for a 30m high mast, with its metal fenced enclosure at the base.

There are definitely some residents in both Hunworth and Stody, who, desperate for a better mobile signal, would be happy to sanction the Hunworth Common site. But, as I hope this letter makes clear, the majority of residents and parish councillors, are NOT convinced that Hunworth Common would be a better site than the top of Field Lane.

We all agree that the three key criteria in choosing mast sites are: 1. SIGNAL STRENGTH, 2. ACCESSIBILITY for POWER and MAINTENANCE and 3. VISUAL IMPACT. Of these three, VISUAL IMPACT is the most subjective. So, it seems to many that the visual impact of the Hunworth Common site, at ground level, would be much worse than one at the top of Field Lane, even though the Common site would not be visible to any householders. The Field Lane site, with its woodland background into which a lattice mast would blend, would be a long way off, and there would certainly be no adverse ecological impact. But on Hunworth Common, there will almost certainly be ecological issues thrown up by its status as ancient woodland, common land and it being registered as a county wildlife site.

We therefore ask you once again please, to urgently supply the Parish Council with signals data for the Field Lane site, and the reasons why Clarke Telecomms have dismissed that site in favour of Hunworth Common. We have another Extra Parish Council Mast Meeting planned for the evening of Monday 14th November, so a reply from you before then is vital. If Clarke’s can send a representative to that Meeting, that would be wonderful. Lastly, I can assure you that should the Field Lane site be selected, instead of Hunworth Common, then that would meet with approval from the majority of parishioners and councillors. But of course, we are all totally aware that Field Lane is private land and part of the Stody Estate.

All best wishes

Charlotte
Chair - Stody with Hunworth Parish Council

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