

## **Stody with Hunworth Parish Council Site Meeting**

Notes from site visit on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2022 at proposed sites for a Mobile Phone & Smart Meters Mast – Hunworth Common and Stody Estate land.

**Present:** 21 residents and other interested members of the public, including 4 Stody with Hunworth Parish Councillors, the Parish Clerk and Charlie MacNicol (CM), owner of the Stody Estate

Site Meeting Chair: Charlotte Crawley (CC), Chair of Stody with Hunworth Parish Council

CC welcomed everyone and noted that this meeting was for fact finding to inform the discussion which would take place at the Stody with Hunworth Parish Council meeting on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December at Hunworth with Stody Village Hall from 6.45pm

CC recapped the process thus far:

The majority of Stody and Hunworth residents would like a mobile mast

Clarke Telecoms had investigated several sites and had settled on Hunworth Common as their preferred site because it scored an 85% suitability rating.

Most Hunworth residents, together with The Friends of Hunworth Common did not want a mobile mast on the Common and the Parish Council requested that Clarke Telecom find another site.

### **CC then handed over to Charlie MacNicol**

CM apologised for not attending the recent Parish Council meetings in August and October, but he had attended the meeting with MP Duncan Baker and concerned residents, so understood the level of feeling in the village.

The Stody Estate is happy to host the mast if a suitable location could be found and already hosts a mast on the Breck Farm Estate Office site which serves Briston.

A major factor about the location of the mast from the Estate's perspective was the visual impact of the mast and that was the reason some sites had been discounted – particularly those on the top of hills that could be seen from everywhere.

CM then escorted meeting attendees to the new proposed mast site location on Stody Estate land. This was across the track and further down into the woodland – approximately 100 yards from the original site. CM said that this site would have least impact on the village (ie could not be seen by most properties) with most benefit (ie it was close to the village to enable the signal to reach). The mast would be screened by the existing trees – although due to the density, a few small trees would need to be removed. The new site is off the Common which is what residents and the PC had requested. A hedge would be planted along the raised bank which runs parallel to the track. This would screen the base of the mast from those walking on the Common. CM also talked about planting to screen the enclosure fencing. CM did not yet know how Clarke Telecom would view the new proposed location.

A resident asked if the mast could be screened to look like a tree – CM said he would request this.

Two residents who live closest to both proposed mast sites, expressed firm opposition to the new proposed site. Another resident stated that the location of the mast should fit the following criteria: Efficacy, Visual Impact, Access.

CM stated that he thought this proposed new site would suit those criteria because it was near to the previous site preferred by Clarke Telecoms.

CM responded to residents' suggestions of alternative sites eg. the Bluebell Wood and the top of Field Lane, as being at the top of a hill and therefore having too great visual impact, so unacceptable to the Stody Estate.

Regarding residents' questions for more technical details about the mast, its coverage and its impact: these will not be available until submitted with a full Planning Application to the District Council. So far there has only been Pre-Planning Advice sought.

CC informed the meeting that the official now responsible at Clarke Telecom is Wasim Patel, who has taken over from Martyn Knapton.

The new location of the mast would be discussed at the Parish Council meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> December. The Parish Council's Land Agent advisor had been invited.

Parish Councillor Nick Lloyd (NL) reminded the meeting that, as a consultee to the Planning process rather than the landowner, the Parish Council would probably not be informed of all moves by Clarkes until the full plans were submitted to the District Council and that the Parish Council might now have to be aware of the advisor's costs as they may not be able to claim them back if the mast is ultimately not positioned on PC land?

CC thanked everyone for attending and the meeting was concluded.