

# **SELSTON PARISH COUNCIL**

**Clerk to the Council:**

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## **A Letter of Consultation to the Parish of Selston**

The Parish Council has been approached by Shared Access Ltd., which is a company specialising in the erection and installation of mobile phone masts.

**The purpose of this letter is to consult YOU, the people of Selston Parish, as to your opinions about siting a mobile phone mast at the Parish Hall. The Parish Council is NOT promoting this plan, NEITHER are we campaigning against it. We are seeking your views and trying to give you an understanding of the offer, which is on the table with regard to this mast.**

- 1) We live in an area, which is not currently well served by mobile signals. Documents showing the location of the proposed mast and the enhanced mobile signal, which would be achieved by it can be viewed on our website [www.selston.org.uk](http://www.selston.org.uk). Alternatively a representative of Selston Parish Council will be at Underwood Festival on the 8<sup>th</sup> July and Selston Festival on 22<sup>nd</sup> July where copies can be viewed.
- 2) There would also be a financial incentive in the form of a one off payment of £40,000 attached to the mast's installation and should the community be in favour of the mast the money would be "ring fenced" to be spent on improving the Parish Hall facilities, including the adjacent sports facilities, in accordance with the Charitable status afforded to Selston Parish Hall. We also have a small pot of money already set aside for improvements to the Parish Hall, and should the £40,000 become available to the Parish Hall, we could use the existing money set aside on other projects in the community. Highest on our list would currently be the park at Jacksdale.
- 3) Naturally the "flip-side" of this is concerns over the possible health risks associated with mobile phone masts. The Cancer Research website [www.cancerresearch.org](http://www.cancerresearch.org) and the Health and Safety Executive's website [www.hse.gov.uk](http://www.hse.gov.uk) contain interesting information and there is a wealth of information on the subject on the Internet.

### **To summarise the information from Cancer Research and the HSE:**

- 1) The Cancer Research site suggests that mobile phone signals give off non-ionising radiation, which does not have enough energy to change human cells and they conclude that "Mobile phone masts and base stations are unlikely to increase your cancer risk".
- 2) The HSE website also concludes that the balance of evidence shows that exposure around phone masts can be expected to be at a level, which is a small fraction of the National Radiological Protection Board's (NRPB) and the International Commission for Non-Ionising Radiation Protection's guidelines (ICNIRP).

The matter of the phone mast has been discussed at length by the Parish Council and it was felt that no decision should be made without proper consultation with YOU the people of Selston.

If we accept Shared Access' proposals they will proceed to the planning process and the advantage to our community would be the improved mobile signal and the money to be spent in our community.

If we decline Shared Access' proposals they may well look for an alternative site on private land, and should they find such a place and should planning permission be passed by Ashfield District Council, then our community would still have an improved mobile signal, but the financial benefit would go to the private land owner.

Shared Access only specialise in one off payments for the erection of masts, and whilst we acknowledge that a "better deal" might be possible, by seeking a different partner to work with, who would make annual payments, this does also bring forward further problems;

- (i) whilst we have the offer on the table from Shared Access we are unable to seek other partners in the industry,
- (ii) if we decline Shared Access' offer it is quite likely that we may not be able to find an alternative partner,
- (iii) if we decline Shared Access' offer they may well seek to "cover" Selston from an alternative site, and may be able to put this in place before we resolve negotiations with an alternative partner.

As you can appreciate this really is a difficult decision to make and that is why we are asking you, the community of Selston, before any further steps are taken. We understand that some people will be in favour and some against the phone mast and that is why we are asking for your votes and comments.

I am in favour of accepting Shared Access' offer

I am against accepting Shared Access' offer, but think that an alternative provider should be sought

I am against accepting Shared Access' offer

Further Comments

Name ..... Post Code .....

Thank you for your time. Please return to the Parish Office at the Parish Hall, Mansfield Road, Selston, NG16 6EE by Monday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2017.