

Appendix 5a)

I'm Jason Oliver, chair of Abingdon Lawn Tennis Club, and there are several other members of the club here as well.

I thought I'd come along to give a quick overview of the club and the project we are hoping the S106 Tennis Court Contribution in question can facilitate.

Abingdon Tennis Club is a voluntary non-profit organisation that has been established for over 100 years and we have just renewed our lease with our landlords the Vale for another 60 years. We have six courts and a mini court with no playing in requirements. The club runs a variety of sessions every weekday evening, all through the year and enter nearly twenty adult and junior teams in local leagues at weekends. People can come along to a clubnight or match practice for up to 6 times a year for a small visitor's fee without needing to join. Our qualified coaches run junior and senior courses for all standards with no need to join the club. We host popular senior and junior tournaments annually, again open to all. The club also subsidises a junior session on Saturday mornings throughout the year with no requirement to join.

Our membership has increased by a third over the last 8 years to 252 currently and we often now have insufficient courts at weekends and on summer evenings. We are expecting demand to continue to rise with the new houses being built in Drayton and Didcot etc. and will shortly be delivering flyers to advertise to them.

We obtained planning permission in 2015 to expand the club and first applied for the Tennis Court Contribution in 2016. We have funds in place for one extra court but with the S106 money will be able to build 2 courts with associated economies of scale. We took technical advice from the LTA, co-ordinated our plans with the Youth Football and Rugby clubs we share the Southern Town Park with, sought quotes from a number of approved contractors and have had a preferred contractor ready to go for a year and a half.

We are the only tennis club in Abingdon –the excellent White Horse Leisure and Tennis Centre will be doesn't offer adult teams, clubnights, membership for free play etc. and I see their separate S106 contribution is the next item to be discussed this evening. We are less than a mile by road from the housing development in question and are demonstrating our commitment to the project by more than matching the Contribution in question. We're very much hoping that you are able to approve the release of this money to enable us to continue to provide tennis facilities to the town as it grows. I'll be very happy to answer any questions that you may have. Thank you.

Subject: Objection to Planning proposal

Appendix 5b)

I am grateful for the opportunity to speak with the Committee I regard to item 12 on the agenda - the mechanism for you expressing a view on telecommunication equipment applications. In particular, I am concerned about our current experience in the light of the Vale's announcement last month of a 15 metre high telegraph pole on the grass verge in Radley Road.

I would like the committee to realise the high degree of residents' anger at **the lack of consultation** over the proposal. The level of democracy operating here is woeful. Letters were sent to four houses - two in Radley Road and two in Gordon Drive (one of which has been sold and a new owner not yet in). When I phoned the contact Planning Officer he informed me that for this type of application he did not need to inform **anyone!** I regard that as disgraceful and offensive to We residents.

Moreover when I contacted my District Councillors, neither Cllr Jenkins nor Cllr Hall knew anything about it, despite the on line application declaring that they had been contacted in December and raised no objection. So we have a travesty of consultation, manifest economy with the truth, and no wonder that people think they are being stitched up by the local authority and big business.

Your agenda note to item 12 specifies that it is necessary to assess "whether the proposal would impact the visual amenity of the area". In our case this is a no-brainer. Planting a 15 metre pole and four ugly cabinets on a grass area adjacent to mature trees will certainly impact detrimentally on the view from both Radley Road and Gordon Drive, as many of the comments on line have pointed out. Yet no-one has spoken with us about these sight lines. I asked the Planning Officer whether he had visited the site and he remarked defensively that he was familiar with the area. So that's a 'No' then. Residents and their environmental concerns are not being taken seriously.

People locally have a range of other concerns:

- the safety of parents and children as the road crossing is made yet more hazardous,
- turning the grass verge into an industrial zone, encouraging illegal dumping,
- questions about the construction phase which may damage surrounding property with foundation work, and will certainly cause enormous traffic management problems not addressed at all.

Several people have made the obvious point that the place for this type of equipment is on the industrial estate where it is now, not in a residential area.

I am grateful to Cllr Jenkins for ferreting out information for us once we showed her the proposal, but I am asking the committee to lend its weight to our objections as they look for an improved democratic mechanism to deal with applications of this type. I leave with you a copy of residents' objections to date (all accessible on line).

The Revd John Wesson

Appendix 5C)

Thank you for the opportunity to speak this evening. I am here to object to the proposed development of a 15 meter telecomms mast on the verge between Radley Road and Gordon Drive, which is three doors down from my house. I can't imagine anyone would welcome a mobile mast outside their house, and I appreciate these structures need to go somewhere. However, the proposed site is absolutely wrong for this type of development. Firstly, at 15 meters, the mast would tower over the surrounding houses (which stand at approx 7.5 meters high, so half the height of the mast). It would also tower over the trees which are supposed to provide some cover. On the plans, it is clear that the trees in the area near the mast those closest are between 4.5 and 9.5 meters in height) will not mask it. For comparison, the street lamps are 8 meters high – this mast will be almost double that – it will look completely out of character and dramatically affect the visual amenity of the area. I also have concerns about the safety to pedestrians trying to cross Radley Road, as the site of the mast – and the associated 4 cabinets – is on a blind bend and will make a difficult crossing much more dangerous.

C Rathbone