



QS4 Limited

Cody Technology Park
Ively Road, Farnborough
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www.qs4.com

06 February 2006

Ref: A11962

Dear Local Resident

Proposed Telecommunications Equipment at St Bede's Church, Nelson

St Bede's Parochial Church Council has been approached with a proposal to host a mobile phone base station within the church subject to consultation with local residents. The church would therefore like to hear residents' views before deciding whether or not to seek permission to proceed from the Diocese of Blackburn.

If the proposal goes ahead the installation will be undertaken by QS4 Ltd. QS4 has been appointed by the Archbishops' Council of the Church of England as its sole approved installer of telecommunications equipment. QS4 works with the church, the local authority and the diocese to obtain all the necessary approvals and has a thorough knowledge and understanding of all aspects of the industry and is committed to the highest standards of health and safety.

We would draw your attention to the following

- i) *Recognition of health concerns over emissions:* The Government undertakes audits of existing mobile phone base stations, especially those around schools and hospitals. These audits show that in the areas surveyed, emissions are under the Government and internationally agreed safety limits, by many thousands of units. The results of the audits to date are available at www.ofcom.org.uk. Under the Licence QS4 issues when the equipment is sited in the church, the operators will be forced to measure the levels of emissions routinely. This is not the case with mobile phone base stations at other sites.
- ii) *Appearance.* We believe the installation will not have any detrimental visual effect on the church. The exact placement of the antennas and equipment cabinets has yet to be finalised but will be within the LPA guidelines.
- iii) *Location of site and use of mobile phones.* There are now about 50 million mobile phones in use, all needing base stations to operate. The Government requires telecommunications firms to provide coverage for the growing number of mobile phones in use by small low-powered cells. This is the main reason for more and more applications. Government policy requires that operators maximise the use of existing structures. One alternative is to site antennas on lampposts, petrol forecourts and other structures below 15 metres, the maximum height not requiring planning permission. Churches are required to apply for diocesan planning permission and local authority pre-consultation as a minimum, which ensures that changes in a church remain under public scrutiny. We believe therefore that the church is a more suitable site than the options cited above. Should a mobile phone base station not be sited at St Bede's, one or more base stations will inevitably be required at these alternative locations.

The church will benefit from the rent it receives and will use the money for the upkeep of the building and the ongoing development of community work and the overall mission of the church.

As part of the consultation part we would invite you to send any comments that you may have in writing to myself at the above address, quoting reference A11962 to reach me by 24 February 2006..

Yours faithfully

Simon Talbot

Church Project Manager
QS4 Limited