



CHESSWOOD JUNIOR SCHOOL

Home of Bright Sparks

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Tuesday, 19 October 2021

5G Mast – Chesswood Road – Planning Ref AWDM/1815/21

Dear Parent,

Towards the end of September the school were made aware of a proposal to install a 5G mast on Chesswood Road adjacent to the road crossing. The image provides a sense of scale and position.

We have been contacted by parents and the Worthing Herald in the past week. It seems there is a growing level of concern amongst parents about the installation of the mast. Given the increasing strength of feeling expressed about the mast alongside the suggestions that the school should take action to prevent its installation, I believe it is important to be clear on the school position with all families.

At this time the school neither supports nor objects to the installation of the 5G mast **IF** the metrics remain well within the Public Health England (PHE now replaced by UK Health Security Agency) tolerances. The conclusion of PHE with regard to 5G technology is:

“It is possible that there may be a small increase in overall exposure to radio waves when 5G is added to an existing network or in a new area. However, the overall exposure is expected to remain low relative to guidelines and, as such, there should be no consequences for public health.”

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/5g-technologies-radio-waves-and-health/5g-technologies-radio-waves-and-health>

Furthermore, the World Health Organization (WHO) states that, *“to date, and after much research performed, no adverse health effect has been causally linked with exposure to wireless technologies.”*

<https://www.who.int/news-room/q-a-detail/radiation-5g-mobile-networks-and-health>

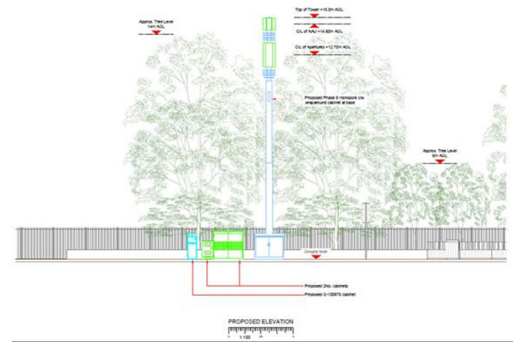
When asked by the Worthing Herald for comment I wrote the following on behalf of the Chesswood Junior School Position:

“The school is aware of the 5G mast application and is guided on its position by Public Health England advice <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/mobile-phone-base-stations-radio-waves-and-health/mobile-phone-base-stations-radio-waves-and-health> . At this time the school would expect any permission for an installation to be granted on the basis that it will be well within the guidelines of the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) for limiting exposures particularly in view of the proximity of the school.”

“We trust our professional colleagues in West Sussex and Adur & Worthing councils to secure community confidence in this decision. We trust they will be undertaking appropriate due diligence ensuring any installation remains well within established tolerances supported by Public Health England, placing the school and wider community health first.”

The International commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection states “RF effects on the body and health implications

RF EMFs have the ability to penetrate the human body, with the main effect of this being a rise in





temperature in the exposed tissue.

The human body can adjust to small temperature increases in the same way as it does when undertaking exercise and performing sporting activities. This is because the body can regulate its internal temperature. However, above a certain level (referred to as the threshold), RF exposure and the accompanying temperature rise can provoke serious health effects, such as heatstroke and tissue damage (burns).

Another general characteristic of RF EMFs is that the higher the frequency, the lower the depth of penetration of the EMFs into the body. As 5G technologies can utilise higher EMF frequencies (>24 GHz) in addition to those currently used (<4 GHz), power from those higher frequencies will be primarily absorbed more superficially than that from previous mobile telecommunications technologies. However, although the proportion of power that is absorbed superficially (as opposed to deeper in the body) is larger for the higher frequencies, the **ICNIRP (2020) restrictions have been set to ensure that the resultant peak spatial power will remain far lower than that required to adversely affect health. Accordingly, 5G exposures will not cause any harm providing that they adhere to the ICNIRP (2020) guidelines.**

The conclusion on behalf of the school is that we expect the relevant authorities to undertake all due diligence measures to ensure the radiofrequency electromagnetic fields (RF EMFs) remain well within the tolerances set out by the ICNIRP. We will seek written assurances from the Adur and Worthing planning committee that the metrics will be 'well within' ICNIRP tolerances, if that cannot be provided then the school would reconsider its position. If that can be provided then there is no reasonable grounds for the school to object to.

I understand that position may be disappointing to some families but there are three aspects I need to be mindful of:

- Focussing on leading the best school I possibly can – that takes up all the hours we have and more.
- Not engaging in any campaign or movement where there is not a clear reason to do so – if the metrics are satisfied, there is no clear reason to do so.
- There are professionals qualified to take decisions such as this, we are not qualified and therefore must (and do) rely on their good judgement and professional practice, i.e. they would not create a health and well-being risk for children and would be very diligent in taking every reasonable step to avoid such an outcome.

Going forwards should any family wish to engage with the planning process then use the planning portal for Adur and Worthing Council Case AWDM/1815/21

<https://planning.adur-worthing.gov.uk/online-applications/advancedSearchResults.do?action=firstPage>

To engage with your local councillor then please visit <https://democracy.adur-worthing.gov.uk/mgMemberIndexGroup.aspx?bcr=1&q=MEMWBC&m=MEMWBC> contact details are available for each councillor on the website.

Whilst we acknowledge that this decision will not gain support of all, or even the majority, I hope the clarity will be welcomed. We encourage families to engage with the formal routes available to them (see above). A copy of this correspondence has been sent, as the school response, to the planning team at Adur and Worthing Council. As things stand currently, the school would not engage further with views, concerns or complaints with regard to the mast installation and will continue to focus on maintaining the best school we possibly can.

Yours sincerely,