

NEWTONHILL, MUCHALLS and CAMMACHMORE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Planning Department
Aberdeenshire Council.

23 November 2011

Dear Ms McFarlane,

Re: Planning Application APP/2011/3603 for Land at St Ternan's Church, Muchalls, AB39 3PP.

This planning application was discussed at the meeting of the Community Council on 16th November 2011.

We originally received notification of this proposed installation during the summer and it was raised at the Community Council meeting in August. At that point we agreed that we would require feedback from the community before we could comment.

We have been alerted to the number of submissions on the Aberdeenshire planning web site that oppose the installation of this radio tower and its associated equipment. We are particularly concerned that the equipment is being placed so close to residential properties. While there may not be evidence of health problems associated with mobile phone base stations, there is still a perceived threat which, understandably, concerns those living close to the proposed site.

It would appear to be the plan, to camouflage the tower by the existing trees, but at the same time a number of trees will be removed. Local Development Plan policy Env\8 seeks to protect trees and woodlands, but while the trees in question may not be subject to a Preservation Order, they are of significant landscape value as there are very few mature trees in the area.

The Community Council understands the need to provide a mobile phone infrastructure, but there are already four mobile phone base stations within one mile of the proposed site, namely: 2611 operated by O2, 97338 operated by T-Mobile, 35889 operated by Vodafone and GRM0057 operated by Orange. Section 5.0 of the applicant's document, General Background Information for Telecommunications Development, states that Vodafone and O2 actively encourages and supports site sharing. Given that both Vodafone and O2 already have base stations close to the proposed site, then there should be ample opportunity to install the equipment at one of those sites. Orange is using two different frequencies from their GRM0057 base station, so it must be technically possible. As far as I can tell, the applicant has not given a reason why they want to build another base station rather than use one or both of the existing sites. Local Development Plan policy Inf\9 (c) requires the applicant to fully justify their reasons for not mast sharing. I could not access the ICNIRP document on the Aberdeenshire planning web site for this application and ask that you verify it against policy Inf\9 (b).

Given the concerns expressed above, the Community Council request that planning application APP/2011/3603 be rejected.

Yours sincerely,



Michael Morgan
Vice Chairman and Planning Officer
Newtonhill, Muchalls and Cammachmore Community Council
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