

PENTYRCH SPORTS ASSOCIATION

UPDATE ON THE PROPOSED MOBILE PHONE MAST ON PARC Y DWRLYN FIELDS

24TH SEPTEMBER 2018

The mobile operator who has planning permission to erect a mobile phone mast on Parc Y Dwrlyn Fields has formally requested that the Pentyrch Sports Association (PSA) enter into negotiations to progress with the project. The operator has already obtained planning permission from Cardiff City Council and therefore failure to engage or agree by the PSA may result in the matter being referred to the Land Tribunal/Court by the operator under new legislation, the New Electronic Communication Code. The new law gives operators, amongst other things, more powers to acquire mast sites for the general public good.

Matt Hancock, the then Minister of State for Digital said on 19th October 2017:

“It’s not good enough that many people are struggling with poor mobile and broadband connections which is why we are improving coverage across the UK. We want everyone to benefit from the growth of digital services. Removing these outdated restrictions will help promote investment in new technologies such as 5G, and give mobile operators more freedom to improve their networks in hard-to-reach places”.

The PSA is urgently considering its position and whether to appoint an agent to represent it in its dealings with the operator. It is clear that any referral to the Land Tribunal/Court may result in significant legal fees being incurred by the PSA. It should also be noted that the PSA has been informed that, based on the current scientific evidence, any perceived health concerns with mobile phone masts will not be accepted by the Court. In this regard, below is an extract from the Cancer Research UK website:

“Mobile phone masts and base stations are unlikely to increase your cancer risk. They were included in the 2012 review which found no convincing evidence that the radiation they give off could affect your health. The exposure you get from base stations is usually one hundred times lower than international guidelines. And it is much less than the exposure you get from a phone”.

If anyone would like to comment on the above update from the PSA, then they should do so as soon as possible by contacting the Community Council preferably by email to Clerk@pentyrch.cc who will then pass on the comments to the PSA.