

Have your say in Wimbledon Park Campaign to block the Orange mobile phone mast on Estella's Wine Bar



Current status

Orange's third proposal to install a mobile phone mast in the area – this time on the roof of Estella's Wine Bar, 169 Arthur Road has angered the community. A new petition has been started and over 100 letters of protest have been written so far against associated health risks, property value depreciation and negative impact to the local amenity. Meanwhile Stephen Hammond MP has arranged a **Public Meeting about the Orange Mast on Friday 6th October - 7pm at St Austin's Hall, at the back of Church of Christ the King, corner of The Crescent and Arthur Rd**, so the local community can have their say about Orange with their MP and local Councillors. We were hoping that a representative of Orange would be there too but have just been informed by Jaque Sibanda that Orange are not prepared to meet the public as "it just ends up in a shouting match. It's a very emotive issue and both sides get nowhere". However, Stephen Hammond is determined to persuade a rep from Orange to come to the meeting.

Since 2004 Orange have been trying to erect a mast in Arthur Rd. So far the strength of local opposition has been successful in making them back down. Orange are hoping that this time we will give in.

The facts

- Wimbledon Park already has 34 masts. Government policy is that they want phone companies to attach to existing sites rather than create new ones. (See map of Phone Masts in Wimbledon Park area)
- We now have a map from Orange of the 'target area' that they are trying to cover. (see map) It is clear that they have tried/are trying to get a mast up in Heythorp Street on the Wandsworth side of the grid. Again in a highly residential area and probably rejected by Wandsworth, hence no GLN number.
- Planning permission for masts under 15m high is not required in Merton under the legal loophole of 'permitted development'. Wandsworth, however are much stricter with visual impact a major issue.
- The Stewart Report – and independent investigation by the Government into the effects of Electro Magnetic Fields (EMFs) advises a, "**Precautionary approach**" where masts are being installed. Orange is ignoring this.
- The Estella Wine Bar mast would be dangerously close to a highly residential district boasting the highest birth rate in Europe. ('Nappy Valley') It was rejected 6 months ago as being "residential" & "did not provide sufficient height which would therefore impede coverage and also make them (masts) more visible to the locality"
- This site was rejected by Orange in March as "there were no other sites along Arthur Rd that were thought to be suitable for a rooftop installation as they were either residential or did not provide sufficient height which would therefore impede coverage and also make them more visible to the locality"
- Cancer clusters are being investigated around mast sites. Both adult brain cancer and childhood leukaemia cannot be discounted by any authority as linked to mobile phone masts. (see www.mastsanity.org and www.planningsanity.org)
- And if health risks were not enough, property prices could fall by 3% - 10% if the mast is sited here. (See Sunday Times article march 12, 2006)

Don't let complacency allow this proposal through. It is tempting to rely on a few key individuals to fight your cause but it is up to all of us to act for the common good.

What you need to do NOW

1. Write to Orange

Jacqueline Sibanda (Community Liaison Officer)
Orange, The Royals
55 Victoria Road
Acton, NW10 6ND
Or email:

jacque.sibanda@orange.co.uk

cc: sanjiv.ahuja@orange.co.uk, christele.delbe@orange.co.uk

2. Write to Stephen Hammond MP

Stephen Hammond
126 Arthur Road
Wimbledon SW19 8AA
Or email:
hammonds@parliament.uk

3. Write to the Landlord of 169 Arthur Rd

Bernard Slade
Towerstyle plc
Eastlands
Warninglid Lane
Plummers Plain
Horsham
West Sussex RH13 6NY
or FAX him on 01444 461 655

4. Write to or email local press

dpilkington@london.newsquest.co.uk
(Wimbledon Guardian and News)

5. Write or email National Newspapers

Metro – mail@ukmetro.co.uk

Standard – letters@standard.co.uk

6. For E Mails: Copy to our Cllrs Tariq Ahmad, Oonagh Moulton & Stephen Kerin

Tariq.Ahmad@merton.gov.uk; Oonagh.Moulton@merton.gov.uk stephen.kerin@merton.gov.uk

7. Also copy in Merton Planning: steve.clark@merton.gov.uk & Richard.rawes@merton.gov.uk

What should I write?

Write to Orange expressing your concerns using the bullet points over-leaf if needed. Always quote Ref: GLN 3221 in any correspondence.

You can also add that should the mast go up you will be requesting it's removal under code 17 of the electronic communications code.

If you have an Orange phone tell them you will be cancelling your contract and telling your family and friends to do the same.

Write to your Council and MP about the legal loophole and demand it be blocked now by invoking Article 4 Direction of the GPD (1995) which takes away permitted development rights and thereby requires Orange to submit a full planning application.

Tell Orange that should this mast go up you will be seeking compensation for your property's devaluation (under Code 16 of the Electronic Communication Code).

ATTEND THE MEETING!! Friday Oct 6th at 7pm CHRIST THE KING CHURCH HALL and tell as many people as possible about it. Numbers count!

FINALLY, PRINT OUT THE POSTERS ON THIS SITE AND PLACE THEM IN A PROMINENT POSITION IN YOUR FRONT WINDOW OR CAR. GET NEIGHBOURS TO DO THE SAME.

