

# GRADE RUAN PARISH COUNCIL

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*By email*

15<sup>th</sup> October 2019

To whom it may concern,

## **Gov 5G Mobile Consultation response**

Firstly Grade-Ruan Parish Council are keen to support wider broadband and mobile coverage in principle and recognise the social and economic benefits that this brings to communities, businesses and visitors. This however needs to be considered in terms of the impact of telecommunications infrastructure on the landscape and scenic beauty of nationally protected landscapes.

Open landscapes, such as the Lizard Peninsula, could potentially be more affected by the proposed increases in heights and width of masts under permitted development without a requirement for any prior notification.

Allowing permitted development without a requirement for prior approval has serious implications for landscape and scenic beauty.

The loss of control over matters such as siting and appearance could result in significant detrimental individual and cumulative impacts.

Too much reliance appears to be placed on mobile network operators committing to their Code of Practice to ensure that new sites are sympathetically designed and camouflaged. The concern is raised that Operators will not seek to minimise visual impact in the ways suggested in the consultation document. In protected landscapes previous 'codes' have often been less than effective. Statements in the consultation and the NPPF about equipment being 'sympathetically designed and camouflaged' must be carried through in practice

Proposals for allowing increased size threshold of cabinets and housing could be hugely damaging to protected landscapes.

The proposed approach could set a precedent for expansion of issues which do not come through the planning system.

Some sectors of local communities have very strong feelings about the imposition of masts. Grade-Ruan Parish Council have previously been compelled to conduct a survey.

It is not clear if the new 5G equipment would be additional to, rather than a replacement for existing 4G equipment, and how much existing infrastructure can be used.

To comply with the CRow Act, and to meet Duty of Regard obligations, it is considered entirely appropriate to require prior approval in AONBs and National Parks (rather than just a requirement to notify, which may be more appropriate in non-protected landscapes). Such proposals should be properly assessed by the AONB (or National Park) teams.

Overall therefore the Council consider it important that **prior notification is still required.**

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'LD', is positioned above the name of the signatory.

Lee Dunkley, Parish Clerk