

Copy of a letter sent to the agent
acting for Vodaphone with whom
St. Lawrence's corresponded in March

23rd September 2009



St Lawrence's Church . Biddulph

Dear Sir

Thank you for your email of 1st September requesting confirmation that St. Lawrence's Church Biddulph is still interested in discussing use of the church tower for telecommunications equipment. Following our last PCC meeting on Monday I am able to confirm this.

We were pleased to hear your comments about co-operation between O2 and Vodaphone since it is of local concern that mobile phone companies have historically worked alone, proliferating the number of phone masts unnecessarily. We would welcome any combined proposal that addresses the needs of Biddulph North as a whole.

Since we last corresponded there has been meeting of the Biddulph Valley Community Association which has discussed the possibility of mobile street works in Congleton Road and use of St. Lawrence's Church. This meeting expressed concern from local residents and parents of the Pre-School that meets in our Church Hall on health and safety grounds. We are mindful that mobile phone masts often generate adverse local reaction, but would wish to confirm with you that part of any consultation would include an open meeting at which these groups would have opportunity to question company representatives.

Our local MP Charlotte Atkins was at the meeting and has circulated to local residents and schools a letter stating her opposition to both the church and streetworks. She will undoubtedly choose to run with this prior to a General Election and will want to raise the possibility of using other commercial/industrial sites in Biddulph North. To the best of my knowledge these are limited to the Sewage Works on Marsh Green Road and the Quarry on Hirst Road. Our PCC will need to know that potential use of these sites has been investigated before we could agree to submitting any formal application. Obviously we are interested in the rental income that a contract would pay and favour our receipt of that money since paid to us the money is invested back into the community—we would use it to maintain our Church Hall and pay our Youth worker. However we are attentive to the community in which we live, for which reason we need to know that use of the church tower would provide a service to Biddulph North that could not be offered by a phone mast located on the remoter, industrial sites in the area.

I look forward to hearing from you,

Yours sincerely

Revd. Martin Cannam

Vicar

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