

# Campaign for Planning Sanity

LOCAL COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOR ADVERSE PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS

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## OPEN LETTER TO CHIEF PLANNING OFFICERS

### TELECOMMUNICATION (PLANNING CONTROL) BILL

After considerable consultation and redrafting, David Curry MP, who was successful in this years Private Members Ballot is to present for its second reading the *Telecommunications (Planning Control) Bill* on the 24th February 2006. A number of local planning authorities consider that the general thrust of the Bill's provisions is such that it is appropriate for them to pass resolutions in support; these include (*confirmed*) West Berkshire Council and Richmond Borough Council, whilst at the time of drafting this letter confirmation of other authorities' resolutions is awaited.

A full copy of the Bill can be downloaded from [www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200506/cmbills/026/2006026.pdf](http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200506/cmbills/026/2006026.pdf) We believe that the Bill provides for a more robust planning regime whilst not preventing the roll-out of the mobile telecoms infrastructure. The more sensitive locations will be protected from future development and greater capability will be given for local planning authorities to control telecom development within their own borders, as well as providing greater support for the removal of existing installations that are considered to be sited insensitively.

#### The Richmond Resolution

*"This council calls upon our MPs and Baroness Hamwee of Richmond upon Thames to support the Telecommunication Masts (Planning Control) Bill removing permitted development rights from telecommunications developments and widening the issues to be taken into account in determining planning applications for such developments to address public concerns."*

#### The West Berkshire Resolution

*The motion calls on "such masts should be subject to full planning controls". It goes on to say that "the precautionary principle should apply giving schools, homes and medical facilities extra safeguards".*

A briefing on the proposals is available from [www.planningsanity.co.uk/bill2006info.html](http://www.planningsanity.co.uk/bill2006info.html). Should you require clarification of any aspect of the Bill's provisions, then please do not hesitate to contact us (*tel: 0161 278 3355 or email [chris@planningsanity.co.uk](mailto:chris@planningsanity.co.uk)*). In any event, we urge your Authority to issue a statement of support for the general principle that all telecommunications developments should be decided through the full planning process.

Yours sincerely

Chris Maile  
Director