

## Gawsworth Parish Council

**Parish Clerk:** Adam Keppel-Green BSc PSLCC  
33 Manor Crescent, Knutsford, WA16 8DL  
clerk@gawsworthpc.org.uk  
www.gawsworthpc.org.uk



Mr Marc Allera  
Chief Executive Officer – Retail  
EE Ltd  
Trident Place  
Mosquito Way  
Hatfield  
Hertfordshire  
AL10 9BW

[marc.allera@ee.co.uk](mailto:marc.allera@ee.co.uk)

Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2019

Dear Mr Allera,

### **CONCERNS OVER EE ACTIONS WITH RESPECT TO A PROPOSED MAST IN GAWSWORTH, CHESHIRE**

I am writing to ask for your personal intervention with respect to a proposed telecommunications mast and associated equipment on the Grass Verge at Congleton Road and Penningtons Lane, Gawsworth, Macclesfield, Cheshire. On a personal note, my professional role until recently was at a senior level in a large company working in the regulatory compliance and business ethics areas. As such, I am aware of the importance to companies of putting into practice their aspirations to behave responsibly and maintain respect with the communities they serve. For this reason, I am seeking your involvement in this matter.

I believe that your company's recent decision to proceed with this installation despite refusal of prior approval of the Cheshire East planning authority is, simply, the wrong thing to do. To proceed will damage the trust and reputation to which EE attaches great importance.

My concerns relate to application 19/0287M - Prior Notification for telecommunications mast and associated equipment on the Grass Verge at Congleton Road and Penningtons Lane, Gawsworth. Briefly, this application was refused but the work to install the mast has just begun. It appears that the justification for commencing work is that the written notification of refusal may not have reached the appropriate desk at EE until one day after the expiry of the 56-day notice period. The planning refusal had been posted electronically some days earlier and EE were fully aware of the application being refused when the decision to proceed was taken. This appears to be a case where EE is exploiting the letter of the regulations while acting totally contrary to the spirit of that code.

The siting at Penningtons Lane is the only public open space in that part of Gawsworth Parish. There is overwhelming local opposition to the proposed siting with significant press coverage. The application was refused *inter alia* on grounds of the negative effects that the installation would have on the visual amenity of the area. Several suitable alternatives exist with one favoured option already identified at a productive public meeting hosted by Gawsworth Parish Council with the helpful participation of your agents Harlequin.

I should stress that this latest EE decision to commence work at the site runs contrary to the earlier responsible, professional and patient approach which Harlequin had taken on your behalf. I understand that they have encountered a number of difficulties working with Cheshire East Council while trying to identify a suitable location for re-siting the existing mast. Nevertheless, I submit that this does not morally justify proceeding with works for which planning permission has been refused.

Gawsworth Parish Council would be pleased to continue to work with you towards an acceptable alternative siting for the mast. We are also writing to Cheshire East Council leadership to ask them to investigate their behaviour in this matter and urging them to put all possible effort into working with EE to agree on an alternative suitable siting. I believe that productive cooperation towards a site that is acceptable to EE and to residents is the right way forward and much preferred to the distress to our community and the inevitable negative publicity which will result should you continue with the works.

I therefore request that you ask the appropriate people within your organisation to cease work immediately on this installation and to engage with Cheshire East, ourselves and the public for a rapid conclusion to this issue. I believe this would be the right thing to do.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

*P Woods*

Paul Woods B.Pharm. MA (Medical Ethics and Law)

**Chairman**

**Gawsworth Parish Council**