

The following statements have been submitted – full details are attached:

	Name	Subject
CS01	Councillor Gary Hopkins	Phone Mast in Redcatch Park

CS01

Members Forum statement from Cllr Gary Hopkins

Subject: Phone mast in Redcatch Park

In the petition debate later, you will hear from local residents in Knowle ward of the outrageous threat to put a 70 ft high phone mast in one of the most popular parks in Bristol. The legislation on which the phone mast agents rely gives powers to the companies to site masts on public land without planning permission if there is no alternative site to provide a service signal. After initially regarding the mast as inevitable the BCC administration is now not issuing the licence and faces a land tribunal on 15th of this month. The national legislation is draconian and was brought in at the demand of the phone companies when the government was selling off licences at high prices. BCC does have a chance in this case to set a national precedence and I call upon all parties to sign the attached letter which the council can use to strengthen its case.

We are providing this letter of concern regarding the action taken by the telecoms company in seeking to erect a 70ft mast together with ancillary ground developments including a diesel generator in Redcatch Park in Knowle Bristol.

We are not party to the early communications between the telecoms company and the council administration but are aware that the council and the local community are not against a mast in the area and in fact have suggested alternative local sites and solutions.

Whatever the problems that the telecoms company perceives we would suggest that the destruction of a valuable park much valued by the local residents is not an acceptable way forward.

We urge the telecoms company to withdraw their application while work continues on agreeing the best alternative.