

Chairman's Introduction

I'm glad to see so many people here and we are looking forward to hearing your views about issues before the Council makes our decisions – particularly the possible phone mast which is I know of interest to most of you.

There are copies of the statement I made at the last meeting about this, or they are available on the web site. At that meeting the Council rejected the offer made as it considered that it was not a substantial enough offer to justify the mast being built. Since then the Council has been discussing a number of points with the company and, whilst at this point details are confidential I can say that they have made an improved offer.

The Council have a hard decision to make. It needs to weigh up the disadvantage of having a mast on the playing field with the advantages of the proposal for Arnside. These include securing improved mobile phone coverage including 4G, now and for the future, which may help individuals and businesses. Also there would be a financial gain and the Council would be able to make a number of improvements in Arnside with this money.

The Council is aware that there is some opposition as seen in the Westmoreland Gazette article this week, but there is also support especially from the Sports Clubs that use the field as money could be used for improvements to the grounds and facilities.

So that you do not have to sit through the whole meeting in order to hear the decision made by the Council, I have asked that the decisions relating to the public forum are made directly after the public have had their chance to speak. (You are of course welcome to stay to the end and there is also the Parish Assembly at the W.I. on the evening of the 20th April which you might like to come to.)

I would ask you to help us to hear a range of views by remaining orderly and respectful of others. Please raise your hand if you wish to speak during the public session, keep your points brief to give others time to speak and don't interrupt others when they are speaking.

At the end of the public session the Council having heard your views will discuss the matter amongst themselves. Please show respect for the Council and do not interrupt this process.

Thank you