

Dear Residents

You are invited to comment / object to the proposed placement of a 25m monopole cell phone tower to be situated at Erf 2196 **Parkhurst Primary** (102, 15th Street, Parkhurst).

Concerns raised by residents include the following:-

1. A cell phone tower near a residential property lowers the current value of that property.
2. A cell phone tower near a residential property limits or reduces the otherwise expected increase in the resale value of that property.
3. It is very difficult to sell a home that is near a cell phone tower.
4. Based on a 25m cell phone tower, residential property values are up to 10% lower for properties within sight of the tower.
5. Based on a 25m cell phone tower, residential property values are up to 20% lower for properties within 1500 feet of the tower.
6. Based on a 25m cell phone tower, residential property values are up to 30% lower for properties "in the shadow" of the tower.

You have to look at the root causes for 'why' the property prices are expected to decrease following the construction of a cell-phone tower.

There are two main reasons:

- Perceived health problems and the danger of living so close to the antenna
- The destruction of natural landscape and scenery which can lead to the area around the house looking unattractive.

Let us first look at perceived health problems. This is a controversial issue, and in your argument you do not need to prove that a health problem exists, only that a PERCEIVED health problem exists. In other words, people FEEL that it is unsafe. This will definitely affect house prices, since who would want to live in an area which is unsafe for you and your family.

There have been several studies conducted into the health effects of living near mobile phone masts. Listed hereunder are five studies showing the effects of mobile phone masts (from Dr Grahame Blackwell)

1. Study of the health of people living in the vicinity of mobile phone base stations. (Santini et al.) - Pathol Biol (Paris) [Pathologie Biologie (Paris)] 2002; 50: 369
Found significant health effects on people living within 300 metres of mobile phone base stations. Conclusions include the recommendation: "it is advisable that mobile phone base stations not be sited closer than 300 meters to populations"
2. Netherlands Organization for Applied Scientific Research (TNO) - Study for the Netherlands Ministries of Economic Affairs, Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment, and Health, Welfare and Sport Effects of Global Communications System Radio-Frequency Fields On Well-being and Cognitive Function of Human Subjects with and Without Subjective Complaints" (September 2003)
Found significant effects on wellbeing, according to a number of Internationally-recognised criteria (including headaches, muscle fatigue/pain, dizziness etc) from 3G mast emissions well below accepted 'safety' levels (less than 1/25,000th of ICNIRP guidelines).
3. The microwave syndrome - further aspects of a Spanish Study - Oberfeld Gerd¹, Navarro A. Enrique³, Portoles Manue¹², Maestu Ceferino⁴, Gomez-Perretta Claudio² 1. Public Health Department Salzburg, Austria 2. University Hospital La Fe. Valencia, Spain 3. Department of

Applied Physics, University Valencia, Spain 4. Foundation European Bioelectromagnetism (FEB) Madrid, Spain - Presented at an International Conference in Kos (Greece), 2004. This study found significant ill-health effects in those living in the vicinity of two GSM mobile phone base stations. They observed that: "The strongest five associations found are depressive tendency, fatigue, sleeping disorder, difficulty in concentration and cardiovascular problems." As their conclusion the research team wrote: "Based on the data of this study the advice would be to strive for levels not higher than 0.02 V/m for the sum total, which is equal to a power density of 0.0001 $\mu\text{W}/\text{cm}^2$ or 1 $\mu\text{W}/\text{m}^2$, which is the indoor exposure value for GSM base stations proposed on empirical evidence by the Public Health Office of the Government of Salzburg in 2002."

4. Increased incidence of cancer near a cell-phone transmitter station. Ronni Wolf MD1, Danny Wolf MD2 1. The Dermatology Unit, Kaplan Medical Center, Rechovot, and the Sackler Faculty of Medicine, Tel-Aviv University, Tel-Aviv, ISRAEL. 2. The Pediatric Outpatient Clinic, Hasharon Region, Kupat Holim, ISRAEL. Published in: International Journal of Cancer Prevention Volume 1, No. 2, April 2004.
This study, based on medical records of people living within 350 metres of along-established phone mast, showed a fourfold increased incidence of cancer generally compared with the general population of Israel, and a tenfold increase specifically among women, compared with the surrounding locality further from the mast.
5. Naila Study, Germany (November 2004) - Report by researchers (five medical doctors). Following the call by Wolfram König, President of the Bundesamt für Strahlenschutz (Federal Agency for radiation protection), to all doctors of medicine to collaborate actively in the assessment of the risk posed by cellular radiation, the aim of our study was to examine whether people living close to cellular transmitter antennas were exposed to a heightened risk of taking ill with malignant tumours. The basis of the data used for the survey were PC files of the case histories of patients between the years 1994 and 2004. While adhering to data protection, the personal data of almost 1.000 patients were evaluated for this study, which was completed without any external financial support. It is intended to continue the project in the form of a register.
The result of the study shows that the proportion of newly developing cancer cases was significantly higher among those patients who had lived during the past ten years at a distance of up to 400 metres from the cellular transmitter site, which has been in operation since 1993, compared to those patients living further away, and that the patients fell ill on average 8 years earlier. In the years 1999-2004, i.e. after five years' operation of the transmitting installation, the relative risk of getting cancer had trebled for the residents of the area in the proximity of the installation compared to the inhabitants of Naila outside the area.

The PVRA URGE you to use this opportunity to comment on this proposal.

Council has Policy to co-locate multiple masts on cellular base stations and we acknowledge that this has merit; however, the accumulation of increasing amounts of radiation must also be taken into account, particularly in residential areas.

The PVRA request that a public meeting be held with the applicant and corresponding Council officials so as to adequately inform the local community (particularly the people living nearby - at least within 400 metres of it) and give them an opportunity to comment/object should they so wish. Some of these residents are aware of and anxious about the dangers of continuous low-level radiation impacting local inhabitants living within the 50-400 metre radius fall-out area. These concerns need to be addressed.

The PVRA request that projected RF emission levels (certified by a qualified person) be provided as part of each and every application for the erection of cellular base stations The Association cannot find any such projected emission levels in the application.

The PVRA request that Council shall cause regular measurements to be made to ensure that the operation of all cellular telecommunication infrastructures complies with the ICNIRP public exposure standard (paid for by the network provider).

The PVRA would like to enquire whether this regular checking of RF emissions is being carried out by an independent.

The PVRA is reluctant to give support to any new base until we know these important checks are actually happening at other base stations.

Policy dictates that each network operator shall supply to Council an electronic spreadsheet indicating the latitude and longitude co-ordinates of their cellular communication. The PVRA would like to ask whether this has been complied with as it is an important tool for monitoring the proliferation of base stations.

The PVRA are led to believe that alternative satellite technology is not far off and will not require such infrastructure

We are also concerned that the Council does not have public records of how many base stations are in operation (especially as there are cases of ones operating without approval), nor the locations of each one nor how many are shared by all the networks.

The PVRA also questions why a Full EIA was not done for the MTN mast currently under construction at Park Centre and cite a lack of public consultation in its erection. The council has advised the PVRA that a structure can protrude up to 3 metres above a building, deeming an EIA unnecessary.

We feel very strongly that the Council should not support a proliferation of cell phone/broadband masts, regardless of whether they are free-standing or situated on roofs as a long-term study has not yet been conducted that verifies the safety of these masts and especially the safety of the combined emissions that a cluster of these masts will produce.

We suggest that Council should have due regard to the well-known report by the Scottish Parliament (Stewart Report, May 2000) on this issue, which report recommends a cautionary approach. **“We recommend that particular attention should be paid initially to the auditing of base stations near to schools and other sensitive sites** (paragraphs 6.54 and 6.63–6.68).”

Further, many cities around the world do not allow these installations near schools and other similar institutions.

Council should be encouraging the sharing of cell phone masts and the promotion of satellite use

THE CLOSING DATE FOR FORMAL OBJECTIONS TO THIS PROJECT IS 26TH MARCH 2010

Please download and complete the last page of the attached form and fax to

Lokisa Environmental Consulting for attention Portia Rasakana on 012 346 6074

PLEASE ALSO FAX A COPY TO THE PVRA ON 086 536 6229