



Re-founded 1555

# Ripon Grammar School

*Helping shape the future since 1555*



7 April 2017

Dear Parents

## Re Proposed Telecommunications Structure at Ripon Grammar School

I am writing to inform you of a proposed project which would involve the installation of a telecommunications structure at Ripon Grammar School. This would be a structure which is designed to provide improved network coverage for the local community and for Vodafone and O2 customers.

The structure would be located well away from any school buildings, including residential settings such as Johnson House, and the proposed location, at the moment, is near to the observatory. It would be 17.5 m to the top, this being the minimum height possible to achieve the required radio coverage, and would be on school land.

A planning application will be prepared by a property company called Shared Access who specialise in developing telecommunications infrastructure. The company operates in the United Kingdom and Ireland, where they have built, acquired, own and manage approximately 500 sites. They have undertaken a consultation with local residents, including some parents, for whom this project may have implications. The structure would provide a 4G network and improve coverage for other existing technologies and will provide exceptionally fast internet to local residents and businesses.

There are some concerns over the erection of such structures, particularly around Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection. The proposal would be fully compliant with standards set down by the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP), who are an independent scientific organisation whose aim is to provide guidance and advice on the health implications of telecommunications development. In addition, you may wish to read the NHS information on base stations which provides links for further reading, available at:  
[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/215711/dh\\_124899.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/215711/dh_124899.pdf)

I would like to use this letter to make parents aware of this proposal. Governors have been fully involved in progressing this project to this stage. No final decision has been taken to go ahead with the erection of this telecommunications structure, and the project is also dependant on gaining planning permission from Harrogate Borough Council.

As a parent, you may well be wondering why the school is allowing such a project to take place. Many schools have allowed these structures to be put on their land, including Rossett School in Harrogate, and the benefit to the school is a financial one. The expectation is that by allowing this

Headmaster: Martin Pearman, MA(Oxon), CChem, FRSC

Address: Clothierholme Road, Ripon, North Yorkshire HG4 2DG Telephone: (01765) 602647 Facsimile: (01765) 606388

Email: [admin@ripongrammar.co.uk](mailto:admin@ripongrammar.co.uk) Website: [www.ripongrammar.co.uk](http://www.ripongrammar.co.uk)





Re-founded 1555

# Ripon Grammar School

*Helping shape the future since 1555*



project to take place, it would provide £50,000 for the school to spend on developing teaching and learning.

If you have any concerns at all about the project, or would like any further information, I would be very happy to speak to you either on the telephone or to respond by email. Please contact my secretary, Mrs Hargraves, by email at [hargravesp@ripongrammar.co.uk](mailto:hargravesp@ripongrammar.co.uk)

I believe, on balance, that this project's benefits outweigh the disadvantages and, in times when school funding is very much under pressure, this would allow significant financial benefit to be gained by the school.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

Yours sincerely

M L Pearman  
Headmaster

P Heap  
Governor

Headmaster: Martin Pearman, MA(Oxon), CChem, FRSC

Address: Clothierholme Road, Ripon, North Yorkshire HG4 2DG Telephone: (01765) 602647 Facsimile: (01765) 606388

Email: [admin@ripongrammar.co.uk](mailto:admin@ripongrammar.co.uk) Website: [www.ripongrammar.co.uk](http://www.ripongrammar.co.uk)

