

## General over-view of the benefits to a parish and local population of a church hosting a telecoms site:

### 1) Why mobile phones and devices are so important in today's society?

- The vast majority of the population use and rely on wireless devices, and particularly mobile phones, on a daily basis.
- Wireless connectivity for both personal and business use is now considered essential.
  - The quality of mobile phone coverage can influence where people live and set up business.
- From a personal perspective, mobile phones enable parents to keep in contact with their children to ensure they are safe.
- Traditional telephone kiosks are these days scarce, therefore mobile phone services are relied upon to facilitate emergency 999 calls to the emergency services.
- The capacity of the operators' networks struggle, and will continue to struggle to cope with the explosion in the use of mobile phones and other wireless devices, as a result the only way they will be able to maintain services to local communities is to build more sites, if they don't the quality of the service they provide will drop significantly.

### 2) What are the benefits to a parish?

- It is recognised throughout the Church of England that the rental income paid to a church for hosting radio sites will go a long way to enhance a church's ability to fulfil the parish's mission, and the church's unique and much needed services to its parishioners.
  - The rental bands ensure each church is afforded the optimum market value, and the licence agreement ensure the churches best interests are always maintained.
- A typical radio site within a church is hidden behind the louvers of a church tower, which means the visual impact is often zero.
  - When and wherever possible NET ensure all the radio equipment deployed within a church is contained within the church tower, often using space previously under used and/or unusable for church related purposes.
- The alternative would be the operators installing sites on adjacent properties or land where they cannot be hidden, often resulting in a detrimental visual impact within a local community.
  - And of course, the rent paid to a commercial landlord will not be used for the benefit of the parishioners.
- To coincide with the Accord announced between the CoE and the Government, the church would be providing a vital service to the local community.
- The Site Agreement and associated terms between a Mobile Network Operator and Shared Access achieves the Governments intended outcome of the new Telecoms Code, namely significantly reduced site costs enabling more sites to be implemented to achieve nationwide digital coverage.