

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

### **1) Mobile phones are a vital part of modern society.**

- 93% of adults own a mobile phone for personal use, and there were over 23.6 million 4G mobile subscriptions by the end of 2014 (data from Ofcom).
- Network coverage plays an important role in our personal lives allowing us to ensure the safety of loved ones, pay household bills, perform the weekly shop and making banking transactions.
- Mobile phones are also relied upon for calls to the emergency services, roadside recovery companies and for working out-of-hours.
- Wireless connectivity for our professional lives is equally essential. High-quality coverage assists in the achievement of successful economies, improves employment prospects and reduces the need for travel.
- The prevalence of 3G and 4G-capable smartphones means that operators often struggle to cope with the increased demand on their network. Each telecoms site can only cope with a limited amount of traffic, leading to slow connections and dropped calls once the limit has been reached, meaning new telecoms sites are required to cope.

### **2) Hosting a telecoms site benefits the parish.**

- The one-off Compensation sum paid to compensate the church for the PCC's time and efforts supporting NET to progress the faculty application will provide the church with an immediate and meaningful lump sum.
- The recurring Consideration sum will provide a church with the security of known long-term income to help plan and fulfil the parish's mission.
  - The Compensation and Consideration sums have been negotiated by NET and the Church of England at a senior level to ensure that every church is afforded the optimum market value.
- The Head & Sub Code and Faculty compliant legal agreements have been determined by Birkett's, a leading legal firm with a thorough understanding of Faculty and Ecclesiastical Law with a heritage spanning over 150 years, ensures each church is protected from the onerous elements of the new telecoms code, and will ensure the sums paid to a church are protected and through NET ensure the long-term best interests of each church is maintained and Faculty rules always applied.
- The visual impact of these installations is typically zero. Wherever possible NET ensures all of the equipment will be contained within the church tower, often utilising spaces previously unused. The alternative involves the setting up of these sites on adjacent properties or land, which can be unsightly.
- Locating these sites within churches reduces the impact on the environment by diminishing the need to manufacture and construct new steel support towers.
- The alternative would mean rent being paid to a commercial landlord, which is highly unlikely to benefit parishioners.
- To coincide with the Accord between the CoE and Government, the church would be providing a vital service to the local community.