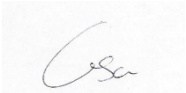


Monthly Meeting of Grimley Parish Council

**Monday 25th November 2024 7.30pm,
Peace Hall, Sinton Green, WR2 6NP**

This page is the cover sheet to the agenda, Summons and meeting guidelines.

Parish Councillors, Notice is hereby given that a meeting of Grimley Parish Council will be held on Monday 25th November **2024 at 7.30pm** at the Peace Hall, Sinton Green, WR2 6NP. Your attendance at the meeting is requested. What3Word location: ///wove.minds.pokes



Lisa Stevens, Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer. 9 The Limes, Kempsey, Worcs, WR5 3LG. 07950256363. clerkgrimleypc@gmail.com



Scan for our website
Select 'G' for Grimley
Access all documents
including this agenda



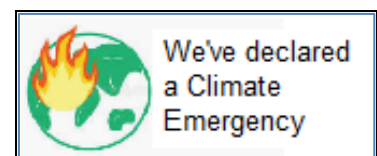
Scan with your phone to
directly access the information
provided at the beginning of
each parish council meeting.

- The press and public may attend to address councillors on matters concerning the parish (allotted point in the agenda), observe the meeting or inspect draft documents. Comments MUST be made through the Chair and not aimed at individuals. District and County Councillors are invited to participate in this meeting at the discretion of the Chair. Public comments and questions to them must be directed to the parish council Chair or should be handled at the respective higher authority meetings.
- If this meeting is an extra ordinary meeting, these summons have been issued by the Chair.
- Occasional safety considerations may mean that we close and reschedule the meeting.
- The Register of Electors may be inspected by the Clerk to ascertain attendee residency.
- Names are recorded in the meeting minutes, unless individuals ask for this not to occur.
- With some restrictions, meetings may be filmed or recorded by the public. We are happy to provide guidance on what is permitted. Advice should be sought in advance to avoid disruption. The parish council may live stream those persons sitting at the council table on social media. The parish council may record audio information at this meeting. However, there is no legal requirement for the parish council to live stream a meeting in order to allow virtual public or councillor participation.
- **Please note 'Information provided at the beginning of each parish council meeting' (QR code above to the right).**
- Each agenda item below includes the resolution to discuss and formulate Motions not requiring written notice. New items raised for formal vote will be included in the next agenda unless covered by St.Orders/Financ.Regis/Delegation to Clerk policies.
- If there are any adjustments required to encourage/allow public participation please bring these to the attend of the Clerk or Chair before or at the meeting. We will make all reasonable adjustments where possible.
- Please check fire exits arrangements upon arrival and check against your personal requirements. Please bring any difficulties to the immediate attention of any member of the parish council. In the event of an emergency, 'muster' is in the car park but, since attendees are only encouraged (not required) to sign in, no register will be taken.
- To our knowledge, there are no hearing/audio induction loops installed at this venue.
- The parish council does not hold or manage the wifi codes for this venue.
- Dogs may be permitted depending on the venue hire restrictions. Please enquire beforehand.
- Children are permitted but must not be allowed to disrupt proceedings please. Filming or recording of children is not permitted without written consent of parents/legal guardians - The council and public must take absolute care to meet this restriction.
- Councillors/the public are individually responsible for keeping their own language/phrasing to an acceptable level.
- The parish council has a risk assessment for public meetings. Please ask if you require a copy.

<https://e-services.worcestershire.gov.uk/MyParish/>

Requests for this information in other languages/audio/large print will be reasonably considered.

Please take a moment read the council's privacy notice, which explains how we use and look after your information and your rights. This document is available via the website above, searching 'G' for Grimley and then selecting 'publications'.



Grimley Parish Council agenda Monday 25th November 2024, 7.30pm

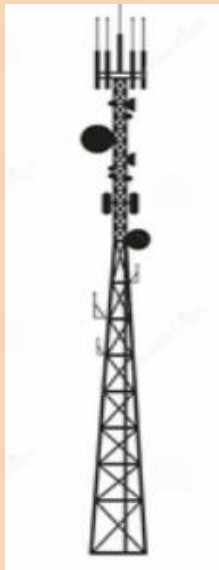
1. Welcome and general admin

- a. Points of order.
- b. To consider any apologies for absence.

2. Declarations of interest *Cllrs to take as read unless declarations arise*

- a. To note updates to Register of Interests/dispensations. Cllrs are reminded to update their register of interests.
- b. To declare Disclosable Pecuniary Interests relevant to agenda. Cllrs who have declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest/ other Disclosable Interest (para 12(4)(b) Code of Conduct) must leave for the relevant items only, unless a dispensation has been granted.
- c. To declare any Other Disclosable Interests relevant to the agenda.
- d. To declare any additions to the Register of Gifts & Hospitality.
- e. To consider written requests for the granting of a Dispensation (S33 Localism Act 2011). Motion to approve requests.

3. Public Open Forum. Please refer to 'information provided at beginning of meeting' for further guidance.



Icon for attention only. Not indicative. Image courtesy of Clker.com and Dreamstime.com

A project to improve mobile connectivity in our parishes

The parish council has been approached by Atlas Tower Group Limited and the County Council with an idea for a project to improve mobile phone signal in the wider area. Atlas was established in June 2018, to provide telecommunications infrastructure to the Mobile Network Operators on a national basis. Over the past 10 months Atlas has been investigating mobile coverage in Worcestershire and have identified around thirty locations where they believe mobile coverage is particularly poor. Atlas will look to meet with the parish councils of Wichenford, Grimley, Hallow and possibly more, to discuss the options for improving mobile network coverage in our area.

This project would, if parishioners support the idea, involve a joint consultation between residents, local businesses and charities, the parish council and the district and county councils to:

- Look at whether the data and maps indicating poor mobile phone coverage matches the experiences that residents have. Also to investigate areas that are believed by mobile phone operators to have fair quality coverage, but where the reality may be different and, the reasons for this.
- Initially to pin point options for sites that would, if a mast was located there, improve mobile phone signal over a widest area. This isn't straightforward, as topography and vegetation play a big part in this. The parish council understands that proposals would be for one signal mast that would tackle coverage over as wide an area as possible. No land owner has been approached about this - the project is in the very earliest stage.
- Look to gather support for the project from the community. Atlas and the County Council state "this proposal is entirely voluntary. Atlas only work in locations where the local community are engaged and supportive."
- No financial contribution would be required from the public for the project if it were to proceed. Atlas have contracts in place with all mobile phone companies who pay an annual rental fee to operate from the site/s.

The parish council is aware that the emergency services operate from the mobile phone network, that smart meters in your home also use the same networks and that working from home is significantly on the rise and will use this as a starting point for discussions.

Councillors remain mindful of the extraordinary beauty of our home parishes – which is why residents will have a full say in all proposals.

See **appendix 2** for copies of slides provided by Atlas.

4.	To receive and approve the minutes of the previous meeting a. 21 st October 2024
5.	To receive the report of the County Councillor – Scott Richardson Brown (Items raised for decision will appear on the agenda for the next meeting)
6.	To receive the report of the District Councillor – Dean Clarke (Items raised for decision will appear on the agenda for the next meeting)
7.	Ditch and flooding working party. To receive an update on areas of focus - To discuss updates and formulate Motions not requiring written notice. a. Dark Lane & Walton Lane (Bells Bank) water running down road. Highways and Severn Trent have scheduled further road works for 18 th November. <u>Outcomes?</u> b. Oakhall Green to Sinton Green water running down road. Highways have inspected and are scheduling in ditch and grip works for spring 2025. Remove from agenda and keep on watch list. c. d. Monkwood Green flooding adjacent to Goodwin's Farm. Schedule as part of budget for 2025. Moseley corner water regularly in road. Severn Trent have attended to inspect and tackle. No further action, remove from agenda and keep on watch list.
8.	Planning, Enforcement & Consultations - consider and resolve to respond to the following: a. M/24/00345/FUL New Inn, Sinton Green, WR2 6NW , Proposed 2no. dwellings with detached car ports and extended parking area for pub. Amended plans: Amended red line – new location plan. Amended Plans – changes to scale, design and layout. Visibility Splays, Transportation Statement and Automatic Traffic Count data submitted. <i>Extension granted to PC until 26th Nov.</i> b. WCC Verge Consultation for parish council to take on mowing and management and expense but not ownership of all verges in the parish in line with biodiversity best practice. Motion: To decline due to budget and admin limitations. To draft a response. c. M/24/01548/HP The Old Farmhouse, Farm Lane, WR6 6NQ detached garage and carport. d. Worcestershire County Council Enforcement Plan review 2024. Reviewed to take account of the updated guidance contained in the Government's Planning Practice Guidance (PPG), and the revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) December 2023. Motion: to take as read and not submit a response. e. Standing Item: To consider and arrange an extra ordinary parish council meeting for planning applications received after date of publication of this agenda. Nil at time of publication.
9.	Monkwood Green Common and SSSI - To discuss updates/formulate Motions not requiring written notice. a. WWT green farm project update. Previously parish cllrs agreed to allow a deeper plough trenching on the SSSI in order to install the green farm water supply. Parish Cllrs also gladly accepted WWT very generous offer to pay for the water connection and standpipe only. The parish council will arrange the hard standing and trough at a future date as required. Timetable unknown at present and have noted the waterlogged condition of the soil. Contractor permitted to access the Common and SSSI to inspect or begin works at any time on condition that soil is firm enough. b. Reinvigorate project to clear ditches on the Common from Woodlands to Green Farm. c. Kerb and verge rediscovery behind main pond. Highways have acknowledged ownership of road at this section. Awaiting Highways inspection. d. Nuisance bonfires on land parcel behind The Moorlands, Monkwood Green. New report raised with environmental health. Await progress. e. Road repairs Monkwood Green (resident project) - updates if any. f. Correspondence from Monkwood Green resident. - Requesting amendment to error on previous minutes and confirming that no correspondence has been received on the matter of mowing quotations. - Requesting clarification to works on Pigeon House pool. - Confirming that PC electric fence equipment previously under resident care has now been stolen.

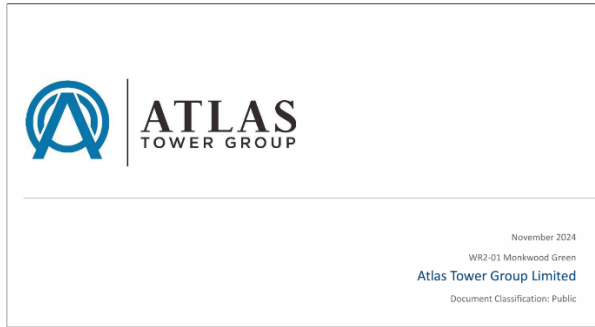
10	<p>Sinton Green - To discuss updates and formulate Motions not requiring written notice.</p> <p>a. Update regarding village green ditch clearance. Contractor has received required licence.</p> <p>b. Update from Regulatory Services – ongoing investigation of alleged noise complaints ref the Open Ditch. PC awaits further information.</p> <p>c. Overgrown hedges encroaching on the village green and surrounding parish council land. - Reminder sent 17th November. Await response or resident action.</p> <p>d. Nuisance manure reported by resident but opted to deal with in house. No further action.</p> <p>e. Dead tree in the pond opposite the Peace Hall – no action taken so far. Not PC owned.</p>
11	<p>Grimley Village - To discuss updates and formulate Motions not requiring written notice.</p> <p>a. Overgrown hedges Camp Lane – Clerk has phoned owners to discuss. Await tenant/contractor action.</p> <p>b. Enforcement Ref: M/ENF/24/0298. Alleged Breach: Creation of hardcore area. Location: Camp Lane, Grimley, WR2 6LX. Parish Council involvement not required at this stage.</p> <p>c. Condition of SSSI Grimley Brick Pits – Email sent to Natural England to enquire as to long term management plan. Await response.</p> <p>d. Broken finger post adjacent to 609(C) and resident concerns that this bridleway has been downgraded to a public right of way without consultation – Clerk has made enquiry of WCC and awaiting inspection and response from them.</p> <p>e. Broken finger post directional arrow adjacent to 631(C) – reported to WCC. Awaiting action from them.</p> <p>f. Loose manhole cover – Parish Cllrs inspected. Report raised with Highways.</p>
12	<p>Budget for 2024/2025 - To discuss updates and formulate Motions not requiring written notice.</p> <p>a. Final proposal. Current precept is £20,580 pa.</p> <p>Major projects in calendar for 2025:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pond and ditch clearance at Monkwood Green (Moseley end) to stop the road flooding. - New website and .gov email addresses. <p>Major projects for 2026:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New Vehicle Activated Speed sign for the parish. <p>Motion: Proposal is to put precept up by 7% to £22,020.6, which is a £5 band D increase pa or under 2 cups of coffee per household.</p> <p>This proposal covers Clerk payrise options under contract, see item 15 below.</p>
13	<p>Police</p> <p>Introducing PC 21403 Molly-Ann Smith as the new Safer Neighbourhood Officer for the Tenbury and Martley area which covers Grimley Parish. Molly looks forward to working closely with parish cllrs in the future to combat any concerns there might be within the area. She will be working alongside PCSO Abi Partridge.</p> <p>Police Constable Tenbury & Martley SNT West Mercia Police</p>
14	<p>.Gov website and .gov email addresses for Cllrs. (County Council website closes June 2025). - To discuss updates and formulate Motions not requiring written notice.</p> <p>a. To consider next steps.</p>

15	Finance, admin and training - To discuss updates and formulate Motions not requiring written notice.
a. b. c. d. e. f.	<p>a. Clerk timesheet for inspection.</p> <p>b. To consider and motion to approve the payment of outstanding accounts. Appendix 1</p> <p>c. To consider and approve payment of urgent accounts if any (Delegation to Clerk policy).</p> <p>d. To receive and motion to accept latest Bank Reconciliation 2024.</p> <p>e. To note that the Clerk has attended training on Neighbourhood planning, hosted by district cllrs.</p> <p>f. To note that the Clerk has attended - data protection training hosted by the ICO.</p>
g.	<p>Clerk Payscales for 24/25 – <i>Cllrs may wish to exclude the public in order to discuss staffing matters. The Clerk has no preference.</i></p> <p>New payscales can be found on WCALC website (see appendix 3) along with the latest information from NALC. WCALC recommends that Council's note the new increase in pay for employees. There is no need to formally agree to the pay increase as it is an existing contractual obligation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clerks current pay is £13.06 at payscale 9. New payscale within contract is £13.69 payscale 9. - Backdated pay April 2024 – Oct 2024 at £ 211.68 please (0.63p x 12 hrs x 4 wks x 7 mnths). - Contract grants automatic payrise unless 'The Council may withhold an increment if it is considered that performance fell below the level expected, following an annual appraisal'. Clerk annual appraisal due March 2025. <p>Debate Option to grant payrise and backdated pay or organise a staffing committee first or both.</p> <p>Banking matters</p> <p>h. Correspondence received from bank indicating that charges will begin in January 2025 for £5 per bank account per month. Parish council currently has 2 bank accounts with the same bank. Interest p.a. is currently average £130 from the savings account but this cannot be used for daily transactions and the interest rate is being halved from January. Nb Future charges will be £120 pa for both bank accounts. Only other bank currently accepting parish councils is Unity, an online only bank. They already charge £4 per month.</p> <p>Motion: Clerk's proposal is that parish council remains with the same bank, move all money to one account and closes the savings account to reduce costs.</p>
16	<p>AOB, correspondence, dates for diary, items for future agenda. This section is for items to note only and no financial motions can be raised in this section.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Add back to agenda sometime in 2025 – bench at peace hall. - Resident correspondence ref Sinton Green thefts from sheds and gardens, reported to police on behalf of residents. - Quarterly police contract arranged and in place. - Oakhall Farm overhanging building – arranged new signage to prevent vans from hitting building. - Correspondence ref parish council contractors list and new additions. VAT checks underway. - VAT reclaim received from HMRC. - Confirmation and validation of external audit with PKF Littlejohn. Two resident inspections of accounts Oct 2024. - Defib repairs MWGreen awaiting Heartbeat Trust engineer still.
17	<p>Date of next scheduled meeting: Monday 27th January 2025, 7.30pm, Peace Hall, Sinton Green. The press and public are cordially invited to attend these meetings and should note Standing Orders in advance please.</p>

Appendix 1 Payments to be made this month and in the previous month 2024.

		Lengthsman worksheet August. Claimed from WCC	
43	Mr Simon Skeys	20/11/2024. Received 10/11/2024	242.90
44	Mr Simon Skeys	Mowing August 2024. Received 10/11/2024	90.00
57	Mr Simon Skeys	Lengthsman worksheet September. Claimed from WCC	
		20/11/2024. Received 10/11/2024	270.95
58	Mr Simon Skeys	Mowing invoice September. Received 10/11/2024	90.00
65	Mr Simon Skeys	Lengthsman October worksheet received 10/11/2024. Claimed from WCC 20/11/2024	289.95
66	Community Heartbeat Trust	All three care packages amalgamated into one invoice each year. VAT £75.60	453.60
67	Nest Pensions	Nov payment for Nov wage. Clerk contribution £25.07. PC contribution £18.81	43.88
68	Mrs Lisa Stevens	Monthly Expenses Nov 2024	28.50
69	Mrs Lisa Stevens	Monthly wage for Oct paid in Nov is £626.88 - pension	601.81

Appendix 2 – project for mobile phone signal improvement



Atlas Tower Group Ltd



Introduction

About Atlas Tower Group

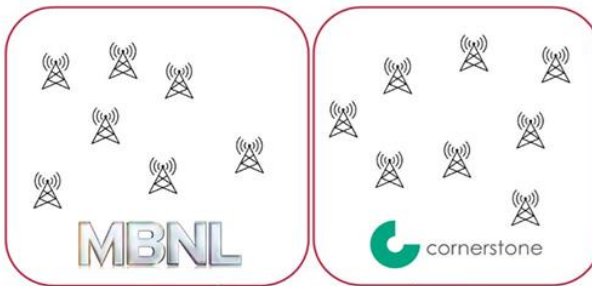
- Atlas Tower Group Limited (Atlas) was established in June 2018, to provide telecommunications infrastructure to the Mobile Network Operators on a national basis
- Over the past 10 months we have been investigating mobile coverage in Worcestershire and have identified around thirty locations where we believe mobile coverage is particularly poor
- We are now meeting with the community leaders in groups like this one to discuss the options for improving the coverage issues
- No financial contribution required for the development of the site. Atlas have contracts in place with all of the mobile operators who pay an annual rental for having their equipment on our site
- This proposal is entirely voluntary, Atlas only want to work in locations where the local community are engaged and supportive of what we are trying to do. So far the response has been extremely positive in Worcestershire

One of our completed sites in Wolverhampton



UK Infrastructure

Only two physical networks although there are some unilateral deployments



Network Operators



Wholesale Reseller (MVNO) Mobile Virtual Network Operators do not own any sites

Why do I need mobile phone coverage?

Emergency Services Network (ESN EE)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-emergency-services-mobile-communications-programme/emergency-services-network>

EMERGENCY SERVICES NETWORK
Lifesaving help, helped by EE

Emergency Services Network Coverage Solutions Surveys In-building Coverage Temporary Coverage Outdoor Coverage

Staying connected where it counts

When every second counts, you need a connection that adds up. That's why the Home Office chose us to build the critical 4G voice and data network for Britain's Emergency Services.

Over 200,000 service users across the Police, Fire & Rescue, and Ambulance services benefit from 4G voice and data services provided by the Emergency Services Network (ESN).

The country's emergency services get access to cutting-edge communication technology, so they can respond quickly to incidents in even the most rural and remote areas.

Helping heroes get to work

Through use of the EE network, the ESN can provide resilient and secure mission-critical communications to Britain's emergency services.

Our network helps:

- ambulances sending vital patient data to hospitals so staff can prepare for a patient's arrival
- police officers recording an arrest on body cams and live streaming for assessment and support
- fire and rescue crews assessing burning buildings based on digital blueprints on tablets and live helicopter camera footage

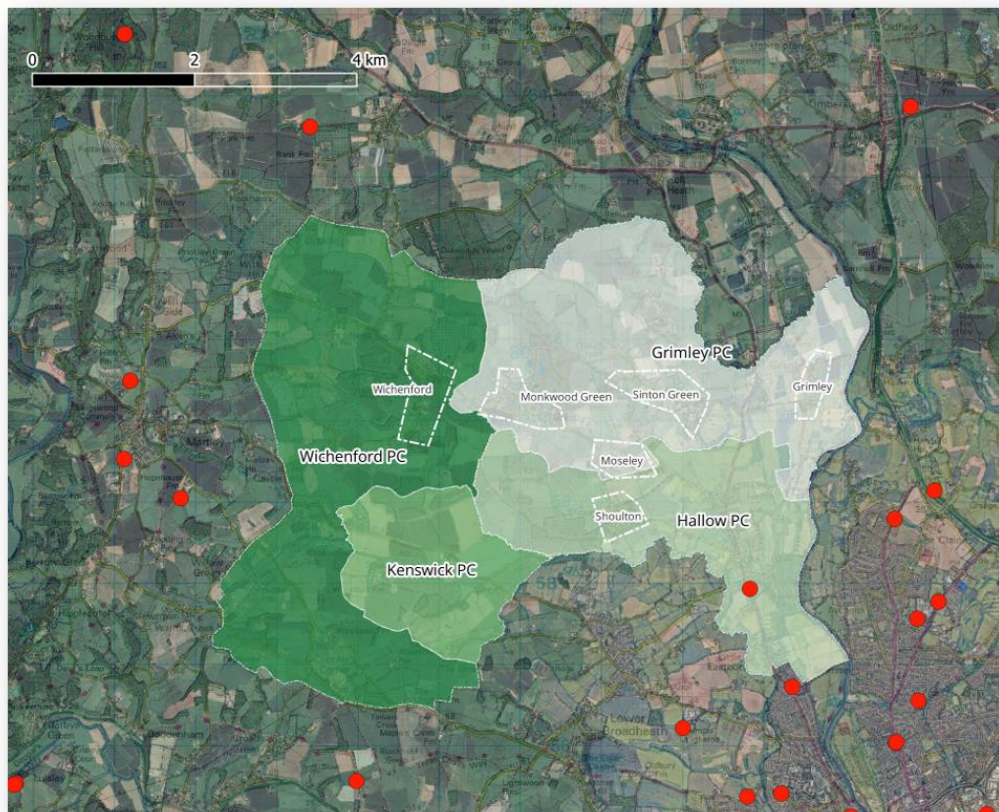
Smart Metering (VMO2 & Vodafone)

<https://www.smartdcc.co.uk/our-smart-network/does-a-smart-meter-need-wi-fi/>



<https://www.renewableenergyhub.co.uk/blog/why-smart-meters-are-important-for-the-net-zero-target>

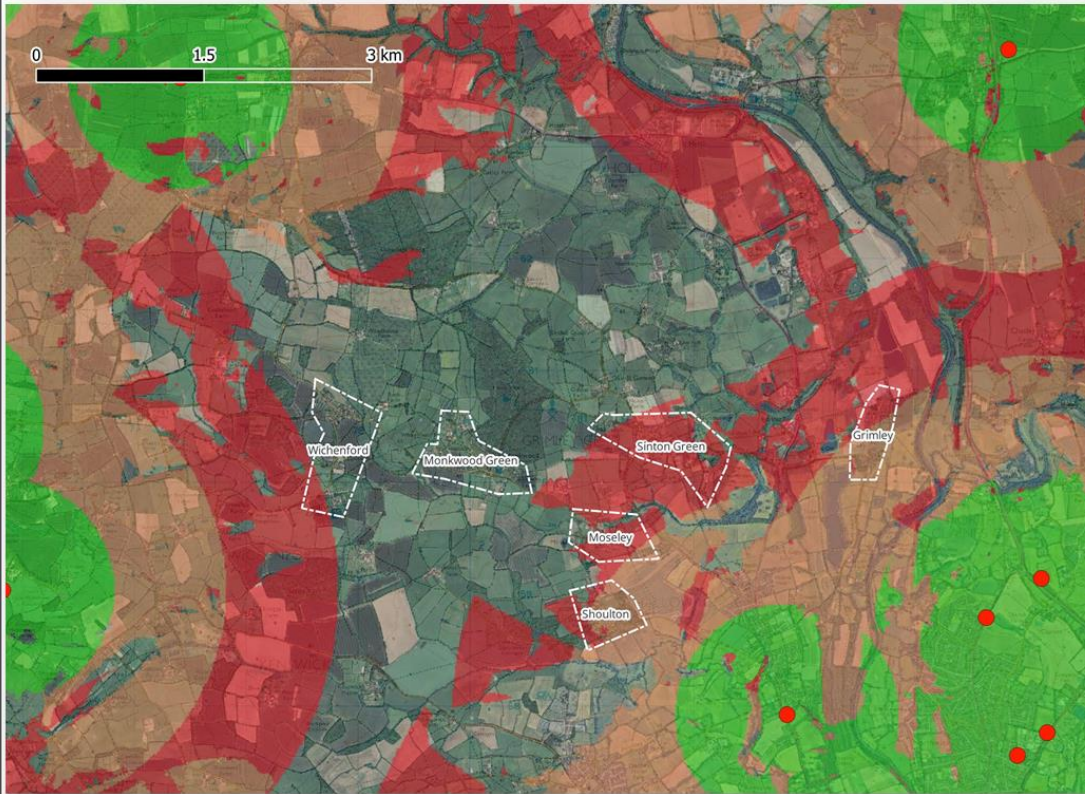
WR2-01 Monkwood Green: Existing Mast Sites



The map shows the parishes of Grimley, Wichenford, Kenswick and Hallow, together with the mobile phone sites that service the area (red dots).

Due to terrain and the distance between the villages and phone masts, the coverage in the area is poor.

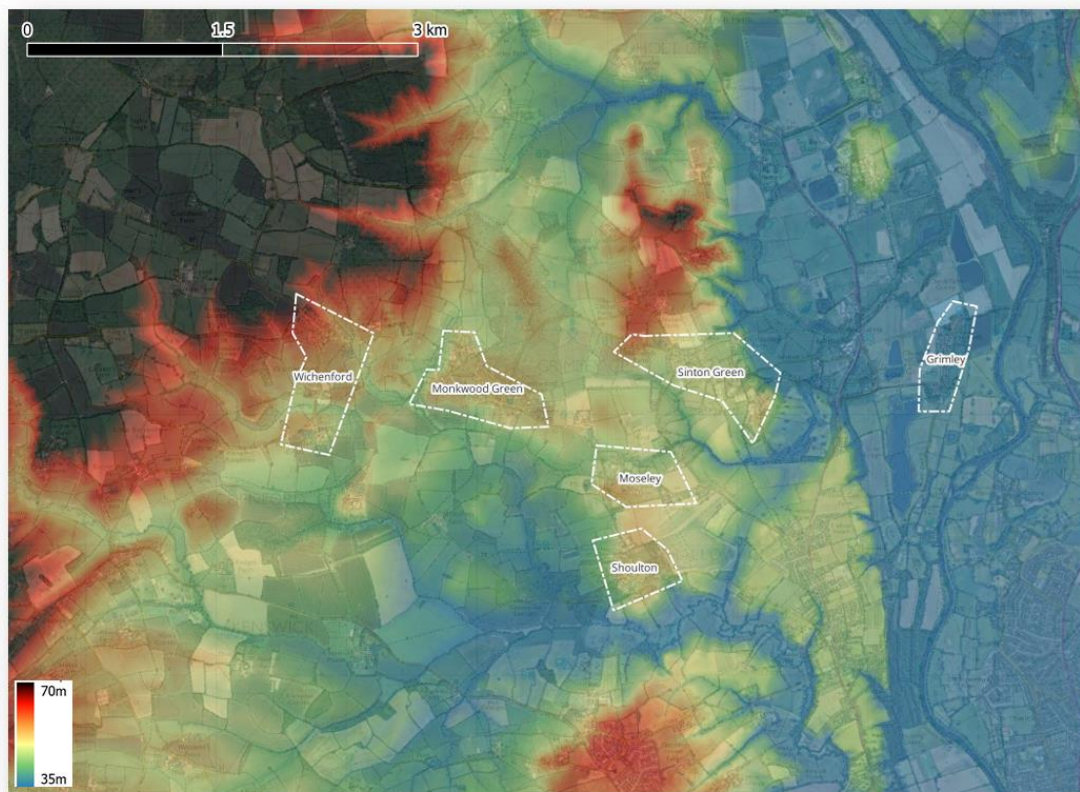
WR2-01 Monkwood Green: Existing Coverage



Existing predicted coverage from nearby sites (at the centre of the green circles).

Coverage to the villages is from 3km away, resulting in poor mobile signal levels. The nearest site, south of Sinton Green, is a church site which gives limited coverage and is not suitable for 5G.

WR2-01 Monkwood Green: Terrain



The terrain around Monkwood Green and the nearby villages consists of hills and ridges with much higher ground to the west and a lower river valley to the east.

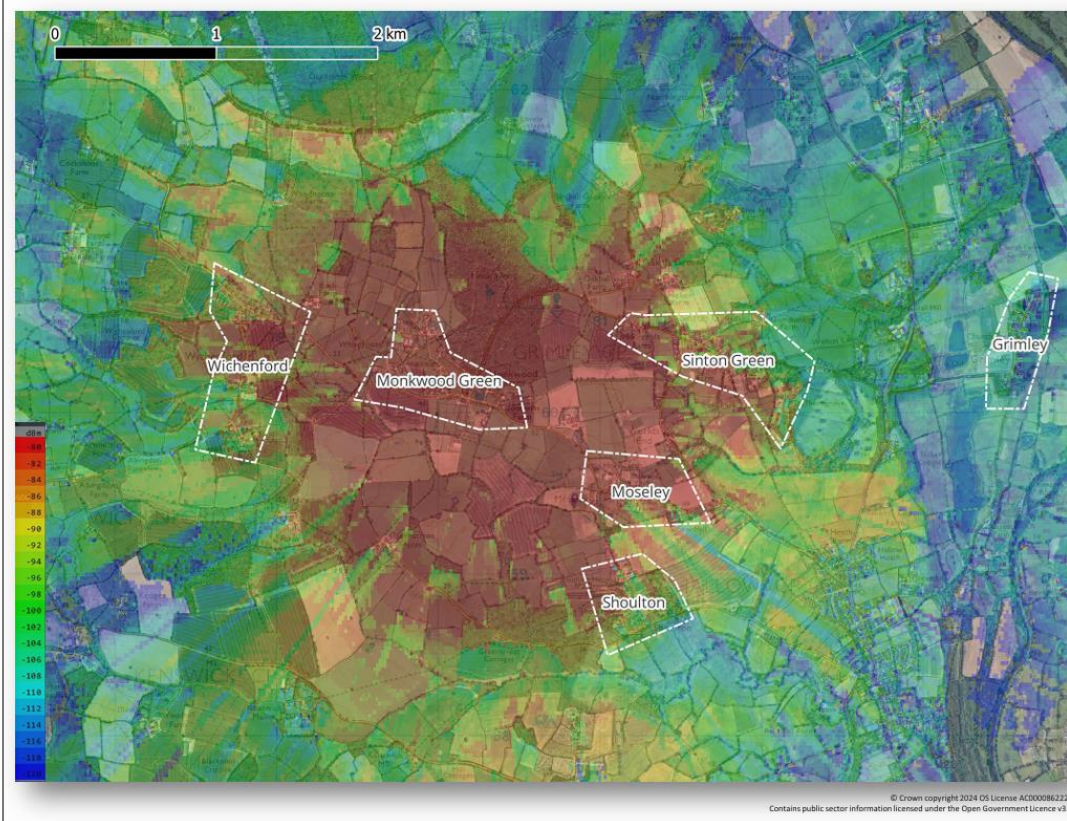
Terrain has a significant impact on coverage from nearby sites and careful site selection is required for a new site.

WR2-01 Monkwood Green: Predicted New Coverage



A site located close to Monkwood Green gives good coverage to all the main villages except Grimley. Due to terrain and distances an option that covers all the villages is not feasible.

WR2-01 Monkwood Green: Predicted New Coverage



This plot shows a more detailed view of a potential coverage option. Areas shown as red, yellow and green provide good levels of mobile phone reception. Indicating that the closer you are to the site, the better the signal strength. A central location to the main villages is essential to provide the required mobile phone coverage.

Parish clerk has contact details for Atlas if anyone requires them.
-end-

Appendix 3
WCALC paycales agreed with NALC.



t: 020 7637 1865
e: nalc@nalc.gov.uk

w: www.nalc.gov.uk

LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES PAY AGREEMENT 2024/25, a comparison with 2023/24 agreement

SCP	01 April 2024		1 April 2023		Scale Ranges
	£ per annum	* £ per hour	£ per annum	* £ per hour	Based on SCP
2	£23,656	£12.26	£22,366	£11.62	Below LC Scale (for staff other than clerks)
3	£24,027	£12.45	£22,737	£11.82	
4	£24,404	£12.65	£23,114	£12.01	
5	£24,790	£12.85	£23,500	£12.21	
5	£24,790	£12.85	£23,500	£12.21	LC1 (5-6) (below substantive range)
6	£25,183	£13.05	£23,893	£12.42	
7	£25,584	£13.26	£24,294	£12.63	
8	£25,992	£13.47	£24,702	£12.84	LC1 (7-12) (substantive benchmark range)
9	£26,409	£13.69	£25,119	£13.06	
10	£26,835	£13.91	£25,545	£13.28	
11	£27,269	£14.13	£25,979	£13.50	
12	£27,711	£14.36	£26,421	£13.73	
13	£28,163	£14.60	£26,873	£13.97	LC1 (13-17) (above substantive range)
14	£28,624	£14.84	£27,334	£14.21	
15	£29,093	£15.08	£27,803	£14.45	
16	£29,572	£15.33	£28,282	£14.70	
17	£30,060	£15.58	£28,770	£14.95	

<https://worcsalc.org.uk/component/edocman/local-government-services-pay-agreement-2024-25-and-2023-24-v2/viewdocument/187?Itemid=0>