

## Update from your Grimley Parish Councillors

Grimley Parish Council serves (in no particular order) the communities of Grimley Village, Monkwood Green, Sinton Green, Oakall Green, Birchall Green, Moseley, Worlds End, Dark Lane, Walton Lane, Camp Lane and all inbetween!

Chair Adam Collett (MonkWGreen)	P. Ayers (MonkWGreen)	S. Wilson (MonkWGreen)	S. Russell (Grimley village)	R. Woodhouse (Grimley village)
A. Sinclair (MonkWGreen)	G. Moore (Grimley village)	G. Probert (Wider parish)	M. Boyle (Worlds End, Moseley & wider parish)	

**Mobile phone signals** - 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 others, 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.

At the time of writing (16/11/24), the parish council has made no decision and had no public discussion on this matter. At the November meeting (25/11/24), parish councillors are due to look at the project and decide how best to inform residents and consult with them on all aspects. This would no doubt involve much joint working with the other parish councils in the area too.

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. Watch this space!

Contact the parish clerk if you would like to receive agendas or minutes by email.

**Next meeting: dates for 2025 have yet to be set. Likely the last Monday in January, 7.30pm**

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**Parish Council Website:** <http://e-services.worcestershire.gov.uk/MyParish>