Cllr. Giles Dolphin
Thyme Cottage
Blissford Road
Fordingbridge
Hampshire
SP6 2JG

Gavin Parker
Chairman, NFNPA
Lymington Town Hall
Avenue Road
Lymington
SP41 9ZG

11 March 2021

Dear Mr. Parker,

Telecommunication masts, Hyde Parish

We are writing to you on behalf of a small group delegated by Hyde Parish Council to deal with issues arising from proposals to install one or more telecommunications masts in Hyde. This group consists of myself, Councillor Emma Mulcahy and several parish residents, with advice from Councillor Ann Sevier, Chair of the Parish Council.

As you will know, a previous permanent mast in Hyde on private land at Ashley View was replaced by a temporary mast on Hyde Common owned by Hampshire County Council and designated SSSI. HCC was unwilling to extend temporary permission for this site, and the mast was moved to a site adjacent to Hyde Garden Shop. In November last year the NFNPA considered *"an application under Schedule 2, Part 16, Class A of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 2015 (as amended) in respect of the siting and appearance of an 18m high Cypress Tree Monopole supporting 6No. antenna apertures & 2No. 600mm dishes; installation of 6No. cabinets; ancillary development"* at Hyde Garden Shop. The NFNPA determined that *"the details submitted are not acceptable and revised details are required"*. In effect, this was a refusal of planning permission. Hyde Parish Council fully supported this refusal (whilst reluctantly accepting the temporary mast at the shop in order to maintain 4G coverage for a limited period until an acceptable permanent site is found). Having studied the planning officer's report, the Parish Council is of the view that the reasons for refusal (i.e. the proposal is contrary to policies DP2, SP7, SP16 and SP17 of the NFNP Local Plan 2016-2036 (August 2019) and sections 15 and 16 of the National Planning Policy Framework 2019) could apply to all parts of the parish, and that compromises would be needed if an acceptable site is to be found that would minimise the impact.

Unfortunately, that was far from the end of the matter. A number of nearby residents have been very disturbed by the temporary mast, for reasons including concerns about the impact on health, property values and amenity. There is much wider concern amongst parishioners about the detrimental impact on the character and appearance of this part of the New Forest National Park and the Western Escarpment Conservation Area, and in particular about landscape sensitivity in the New Forest, where a high degree of tranquility should be the norm. This is exacerbated by the knowledge that Waldon Telecom Ltd, acting for EE UK Ltd and H3G UK Ltd, continue to investigate sites in the vicinity, causing not inconsiderable distress to those affected, especially given the sweeping increased permitted development rights granted to system operators under the Electronic