



COUNCIL MUST APPEAL PHONE MAST DECISION



Picture by Ian Robathan

The story so far: The phone mast on Waverly Avenue in Pheasey was erected in July 2011 despite Walsall MBC having refused permission to put it up. The Council subsequently issued an enforcement notice requiring that the mast be removed. Vodafone and O2 successfully appealed against this notice to the Planning Inspectorate. Walsall MBC then appealed the Planning Inspectorate's decision in the High Court but this was refused. The Council now has the option to appeal to the Court of Appeals against the High Court's decision.

Valerie said: "Anyone who has seen it can see it is so out of place. All the local residents I have spoken with are opposed to it."

"It is disingenuous for two multinational companies to say they did not have notice of the refusal when the refusal decision was on the Council's website, it was sent in a letter albeit by 2nd class post and they were informed in a telephone call."

"I hope the Council will appeal the High Court's judgment so that this point of law can be settled and hopefully the phone mast removed."

To Contact Valerie:

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VALERIE RAISES WOMEN BUSINESS MENTORS

At Business, Innovation and Skills Questions in the House of Commons, Valerie asked the Minister of State, John Hayes MP, what action he would take to encourage more women business mentors.

The Minister replied with a positive response that he would look into it.

DARLASTON ROAD

Walsall MBC continues to refuse to install a signal controlled crossing on Darlaston Road in Pleck.

Valerie said: "Everyone who has used the Darlaston Road crossing can see that it is not safe for the traffic conditions. The £30,000 cost of improvements is a small step to prevent a death or further serious injuries on the crossing."

NEW ART GALLERY

The e-petition launched by Valerie calling for the New Art Gallery to re-open on Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays can still be signed. Please click [here](#) to sign the petition.

TIFFIN CUP 2012

Valerie has nominated Golden Moments on Ablewell Street to represent Walsall South in the Tiffin Cup 2012 South Asian Restaurant Competition.

Valerie said: "I look forward to seeing Golden Moments at the 'cook off' at the House of Commons in July."

VALERIE QUESTIONS MINISTER ON COURT INTERPRETERS



Valerie has asked the Justice Minister, Crispin Blunt MP, about the performance of the outsourced court interpreters, Applied Language Solutions (ALS).

Valerie said: "Since ALS were awarded the Government contract to provide all court interpreting services in January 2012, there have been numerous stories of long delays and instances where interpreters were late, underprepared, under qualified or failed to turn up at all. This has resulted in a number of hearings being adjourned and could lead to legal challenges and miscarriages of justice."

"I met with interpreters from the West Midlands at my surgery who gave me a dossier of evidence which raises concerns about the administration of justice as a result of the substandard nature of the service provided by ALS. I have forwarded this to the Lord Chancellor."

THE QUEEN'S SPEECH

The Queen's Speech took place on Wednesday 9 May 2012.

Valerie said: "The Queen's Speech shows that the Government has run out of ideas. It contains none of the measures desperately needed to generate jobs and growth."

Surgeries

Valerie holds regular surgeries. To arrange an appointment, please call the Constituency Office on 01922 635835