

Mr Chairman after consulting with the monitoring officer at MDC I am declaring an “other pecuniary interest” in application number TELPN/16/01486 the Telephone Mast on the BHSA sports field Gt Totham Rd.

This is the relevant part of the response I received from the officer.

On the basis of the information provided I believe that your interest in the circumstance could fall to be classified as an “Other Pecuniary Interest” pursuant to paragraph 5.1(a) .

This is because:

- The Company, of which you are a Director/employee, has been appointed by BHSA pursuant to a contract for services to provide facilities management services to BHSA;
- The planning matter coming before the WBPC Planning Committee relates to BHSA: if the planning application is successful BHSA will receive a payment for use of the BHSA Land to site the mast.
- You are not in any position of general control or management of BHSA such as to classify this a Non-Pecuniary Interest under paragraph 6.1(a) or (b)(ii), which paragraphs I suspect may have been under your consideration.

The “Other Pecuniary Interest” here is perhaps somewhat more remote than it might otherwise have been had WBPC actually been the body responsible for determining the planning application. Here however WBPC will not determine this planning application, all it will do is consider what, if any, comments should be submitted to MDC as the local planning authority. MDC will then determine the planning application put before it and take account of comments received from WBPC. So in that sense WBPC at its planning committee will only be formulating its views/comments for onward submission to MDC as the LPA: there is arguably no actual decision being taken by WBPC at its planning committee meeting that “is likely to affect” BHSA however the planning application before it does relate to BHSA and ultimately BHSA stands to gain financially if permission is later approved. Equally on the info supplied neither the Company, nor you personally, stand to profit/ gain financially in the event that the planning application to site the mast on the BHSA Land is successful, only BHSA stands to gain.

As you can see WBPC are only consultees in the planning process and as originally the PC was only going "to discuss a consultation letter" and as I am in possession of most of the facts about the item, I can't see the need for me to leave the room. Now there has been a change and the PC is to consider the application. I'd like to say that I don't take kindly to being told what I can & can't do as a Councillor I am amicable to being advised but I will make up my own mind as to what I will or won't do. However for the sake of clarity & transparency on this occasion I will declare “an Other Pecuniary Interest” and leave the room, but I have to say that I am disappointed that because of this manufactured storm in a tea cup I will be denied the opportunity to express the opinion of the residents that I was elected to do which was to explain the pro's and con's of the proposed mast and vote accordingly.