



Health 7 August 2007

Orange to remove mobile mast from 'tower of doom', where cancer rate has soared.

[Commentaires](#)

A mobile phone company is to remove a mast from a block of flats after seven residents were struck down by cancer.

Three have died and another four have battled the disease since two masts were erected on the roof of the five-storey block which has become known locally as the Tower of Doom.

The cancer rate on the top floor - where residents of five of the eight flats have been affected and the three who died all lived - **is 20 per cent, ten times the national average.**

Residents of Berkeley House in Staple Hill, Bristol, also complain of terrible headaches and other ailments which they blame on radiation from the masts.

Orange has agreed to remove its mast after a five-year campaign by residents and pressure from the local authority. But it has caused anger with plans to move it to a residential street nearby.

The other mast belongs to Vodafone, which has no plans to move it.



John Llewelin: Died last month

The most recent death was that of John Llewelin, 63, who lost his battle against bowel cancer two weeks ago.



Anger: The mast (circled) on the block known to locals as the Tower of Doom

Two years ago, Barbara Wood died in her 70s from breast cancer. Two years earlier Joyce Davies died, also from breast cancer.

The other victims on the top floor are Hazel Frape, 63, who has had breast cancer, and 89-year-old Phyllis Smith who moved out after she contracted the same disease.

On the fourth floor Bernice Mitchell, 69, has battled womb cancer. On the second floor, 78-year-old Barbara Watts, who has lived in the block for 31 years, is in remission from breast cancer.

Many of the 110 residents, including Doreen Sheppard, 74, have complained of headaches and other health problems.

She said: "The masts are bound to be doing something. I get terrible headaches and I've started suffering from Meniere's disease, where I lose my balance. I'm worried about the children on the estate as there are so many of them now."

Both masts were erected in 1994. South Gloucestershire Council served a notice asking for them to be removed when the ten-year contract expired three years ago.

But because current guidelines say there is no risk from radiation the council does not have a legal right to force their removal.

After a long legal battle Orange has submitted a planning application to put the mast on top of a shopping precinct in a street near homes, a primary school and a public library.

Jeanette McCormack, 69, who has led a campaign against the mast, said a petition against the new location had gathered more than 200 names.

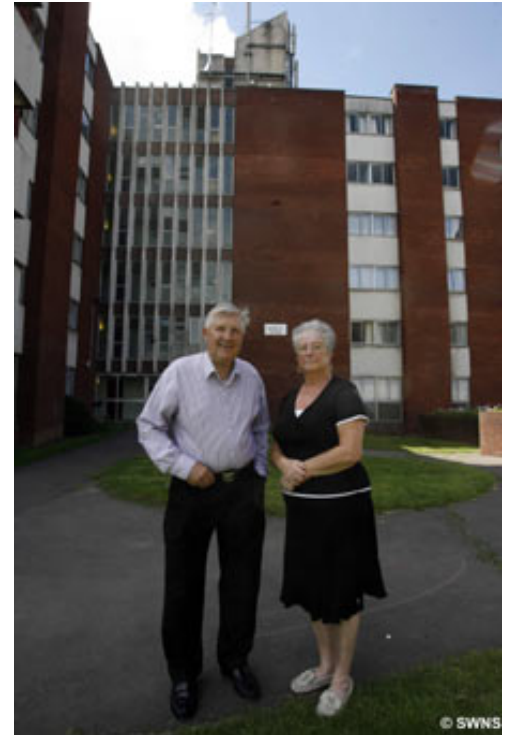
She added: "People of all ages who live and work near the mast will be exposed to the radiation and so there's a lot of anger about it."

World Health Organisation guidelines have dismissed the risks of masts despite other evidence which has found they are harmful.

A spokesman for Orange said the company takes health and safety very seriously.

He added that the company was satisfied its mobile phone base stations do not present a health risk.

Vodafone is working on a new longterm lease from South Gloucestershire Council. A spokesman said the company took residents' concerns "extremely seriously" and would continue to work with them and the council to provide reassurance.



Danger zone: Residents at this Bristol flat have suffered illness and death



Left alone: Moira Llewelin's husband died of cancer, one of three flat residents to die



Up, up and away: Orange's controversial mobile phone mast will no longer be a blot on the landscape

[Comments \(07.08.2007\)](#) [\(Comments This is London\)](#)

Here's what readers have had to say so far. Why not add your thoughts below?

Hundreds of scientific studies have shown mast level emissions create harmful conditions in animals and humans, likely to precipitate significant illnesses.

It is the industry aligned 'International expert advisers' and their WHO emf Group associates who ignore and dismiss relevant evidence, to please western governments and their defence and comms. industry partners. We are all regarded as expendable by them in their lust for profit and control.

- A. Jarrett, North Fife

About time! Orange says that "Numerous scientific reviews have found no adverse health effects". What about the hundreds of studies (yes - all peer reviewed and published) that demonstrate how this radiation causes ill health and cancer. Or the 80% of epidemiological studies that show an increase in ill health around masts? What would Orange and the other operators do if these were actually causing a cancer epidemic? Say 'oh we're very sorry we'll pull down all the masts and go out of business'? No they'd do exactly what the asbestos and tobacco industries did - try to cover up the evidence and produce their own 'research' indicating it is all safe. And that is what we are seeing.

- Simon Densley, London

I have little doubt that Dr Michael Clark, the Health Protection Agency spokesman on such matters, would put this down to his oft quoted 'statistical association' - whatever that means! Can we be so sure? What on earth are we storing up for future generations by our relentless pursuit of the mobile phone and its associated technology?

- Vivienne, Chichester UK