

3. DEPUTATIONS BY APPOINTMENT

(b) PLACEMENT IN CONSENT OF UTILITIES - ELMWOOD CELL TOWER

The Elmwood Area Residents' Action Group, represented by Mr Alan Thomson and Mrs Louella Foyle, addressed the Committee on their concerns over the proximity of the Telecom cellphone tower to residential dwellings.

Mr Thomson spoke of the tower being sited less than 20 metres from the boundary fence, and of the suggested 20% devaluation in properties that would occur as a result.

Photographs were tabled showing the view of the tower taken from various properties in the area. He suggested that the "visual amenity effect" had been misrepresented in the resource consent application by Opus International Consultants Ltd, on behalf of Telecom.

Mrs Foyle referred the Committee to the City Council's Web page on the matter of seeking community views, and suggested a lack of consultation had occurred in this instance. She felt the application ought to have been publicly notified on the grounds of special circumstances.

A considerable number of children had expressed views over the last 48 hours on the tower, resulting in the offer of assistance to affected children by Police.

Mrs Foyle considered that the Elmwood community was the affected party and she requested that the Council initiate a variation to the City Plan, at the Council's expense.

She concluded by referring the Committee to the Council's mission statement.

Questions were asked of the delegation in relation to the visual issues involved with the siting of the tower.

The discussion on the subject concluded with advice that the current Council policy on the siting of cellphone towers and the protocol on how this is given effect needed to be revisited.

The Committee **decided** that a report be prepared for the Committee's consideration on how the section 94 issues of the Resource Management Act were applied in the Elmwood cellphone tower resource consent application.