

Bridport Cohousing CLT

Electro-smog Policy. Feb 2017

The aim of this policy:

To address the concerns of those residents who experience electrosensitivity, to balance their needs with those of residents who do not experience electrosensitivity, and to be aware of the possible benefits and disbenefits of adopting this policy. The policy to be adopted when practicable.

Background:

The major sources of emissions of electro-magnetic radiation are mobile telephones, cordless telephones and wireless internet connections. Cordless, or 'DECT phones, often have a big field of emissions.

We recognise that the brains of young children are probably more vulnerable to emissions than adults. But we recognise the growing use of ipads and tablets that require access to the internet and do not wish to unreasonably limit the choices of those who wish to use this equipment.

To achieve this: we aim to keep emissions overall as low as possible, and zone our site to have different levels of acceptable emissions.

1. The whole site: will opt out of using Smart meters.

Please note that this refers to the meters that the power company uses to work out your bill. (We **do** aim to have a smart meter for residents to borrow to use for short periods to inform ourselves which appliances use the most electricity.)

2. Common House:

Internet access

Our default is to use Dlan Plugs with Ethernet cables which can be transferred to any electrical plug in the building. We will use an internet service provider whose equipment accommodates a non wifi router.

To accommodate group bookings that specifically need access to Wifi, we will select equipment that can be switched to Wifi for specific occasions. Sufficient people will be taught how to adjust the online setting and switch over and back.

Mobile phones

We will ask people to switch off mobile phones when in the common house, not just on silent, unless there is a practical reason not to (eg staying in touch with babysitter).

Common house landline phones

The common house phone(s) will be corded.

3. Private houses

We will initially designate one of the four terraces for a low emissions area, rather like the quiet carriage on a train! In this area residents would agree to access the internet via dlan plugs and use corded phones or low emission cordless phones.

Footnote

On smart meters see: <http://www.anh-europe.org/Time+to+say+NO+to+smart+meters> and <http://stopsmartmeters.org.uk/>

