

## Community Fibre Partnership (Broadband) Update

It has been a couple of months since my last update and therefore want to take the opportunity to let you know what has been achieved, and where we are to date.

Some 340 properties have now registered for Broadband improvements, and we have 16 coordinators looking after different areas across the village. There are two key initiatives, the first which we are driving, is the 'Fibre to the Property' (FTTP), which is based on the Openreach 'Community Fibre Partnership Scheme'. The second is the Openreach 'Roll Out' program which Openreach is facilitating as part of their ongoing program. In respect to the latter, the extent of the program is not always clear, and we are in regular contact with Openreach to ensure that all interested properties are included in either one or other of the two schemes.

Coming back to the FTTP initiative, the offer letters continue to come in from Openreach and it is important that we can establish a cost per property. There has been some overlap and we are working with Openreach to iron out all the wrinkles and where necessary to merge the properties onto a collective list. Once this has been achieved, we should have a clear cost per property, to deliver fibre to the door.

Once the costing stage has been completed, Openreach will introduce a voucher scheme which forms part of a 'Demand Led' project. Openreach will cover the project costs which fall into their own commercial threshold, the remaining cost will be funded by the community through the voucher scheme. This is where the government and local grants come to the fore, and it is not anticipated that there will be any cost to individual properties. Pledging the vouchers will be done online, through a 'Connect my Community' web portal. Once the necessary amount of voucher pledges has been received, Openreach will build and deliver a fibre-to-the-premises infrastructure which is capable to give download speeds of up to 1 Gbps. The nature of the Broadband package and the supplier used is down to the individual properties to decide, the only condition being that the package must be a minimum of twice their current speed.

I hope this helps to clarify the position and further updates will be communicated via the coordinators in due course. This being said, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the coordinators for all their hard work and ongoing support.

Neal Martin