

Broadwas and Cotheridge Parish Council.

Update report re Community Fibre Partnership/ FTTP Broadband scheme

For meeting: 9.11.2020

As a result of the WCC top up scheme (which in effect doubles the value of vouchers) it now looks like 3 of the 4 schemes will progress.

These are

Little Green - 27 addresses
Cotheridge/Church Lane - 59 addresses
Cotheridge Broadwas - 15 addresses.

Total 101 addresses.

The above schemes are being refreshed in terms of the Openreach cost, which is not likely to substantially change (i.e it may go up or down a bit), and WCC are in the process of finalising the funding equation and will then move on to the contract stage.

We therefore hope to have news and dates in the near future.

The remaining scheme is Broadwas village (121 addresses). As things currently stand even with the top up scheme we have a shortfall of approx £ 20,000.

This means in order to progress this we need to attract vouchers to this value.

We have e mailed all those who have signed up, in order to update them and to ask for their suggestions and help.

As a result we have contacted a number of people including at least one local business, but as yet have not secured any additional sign ups.

The arguments for and against have been put before local residents and the Parish Council previously, and we therefore need to consider whether there are any other ways we can get the message across.

£20k in vouchers represents 5 businesses or 13 residential sign ups or a combination thereof, which ought to be achievable?

The Parish Council is asked to note the progress in regard to the 3 schemes in its role as the legal entity i.e the Community Fibre Partnership, and

To identify whether it wishes to proceed with the 4th scheme and if so identify steps to achieve this.

The Parish Council is also asked to note the support received from WCC and the potential opportunity to attract £300k of inward investment into the parish, which would ensure that all residents and businesses have the benefits of fibre to premises connections. Presently only 8% of country has fibre to premises coverage, and there is growing evidence that this stimulates local economies and adds value to property prices.

Richard Burrows
Parish Councillor
5.11.2020.