

Broadwas and Cotheridge Parish Council

Report for meeting to be held on 13.10.2020

Re Community Fibre Partnership - Fibre (FTTP) broadband scheme

Since the last report there has been some substantial progress. Thanks to the WCC Top up Fund which was announced on the 12th September, which effectively doubles the value of the sign ups/vouchers we have.

We expressed an interest quickly and as a result with help of several councillors, the Clerk and the WCC Project Manager we have formally submitted the following 3 schemes

Cotheridge/Church Lane
Little Green
Broadwas/Cotheridge

We are advised subject to a final re cost by Open Reach and agreement of WCC that with the top up scheme these are likely to proceed. We have confirmed the Parish Council as the legal entity and now await final approval.

This leaves the 4th scheme which is Broadwas village. This represents the largest number of addresses and also has had the lowest response rate. We are about to transfer the vouchers/sign ups we potentially have to confirm whether the Top Up scheme will close the gap.

A provisional look at this seems this may be unlikely to we will need to consider attracting more sign ups and therefore potential vouchers (as we had to with Cotheridge/Church Lane).

Once the data has been entered it is proposed to contact and update all who have kindly stepped forward and ask for their help to persuade their neighbours, and also consider via PC members another direct approach.

So it is fingers crossed and if we are successful it is important to remember the scale of the investment into the parish and the fact that a recent article noted that FTTP can add up to 20% to property values.

Richard Burrows