

Broadwas and Cotheridge Parish Council

Update report for meeting of the Parish Council 8.2.21

Re Community Fibre Partnership - Gigabyte Fibre to Premises Broadband

Further to the last report the following can be shared:

- Open Reach and WCC Project team contacted to ascertain progress re the 3 schemes that have a "green light" (Little Green - Cotheridge Church Lane - Cotheridge Broadwas) - WCC assured us that these were progressing, but we have yet to have confirmation from Open Reach that they have contacted those that signed up to verify and collect the vouchers - This will be chased.
- The planned door to door in Broadwas village had to be cancelled because of Covid Lockdown, this was disappointing as a number of parishioners and councillors had stepped up.
- The website has been updated and an article was placed in FootPrints.
- Word of Mouth has resulted in 3 requests for forms and these are being chased.

Summary and proposed next steps.

- Continue to encourage and promote word of mouth contacts.
- Mail shot remaining addresses.
- Try social media again (Though it appears that Broadwas/Cotheridge does not have a Facebook group like Suckley/Alfrick and Bromyard, Next Door seems to have a limited reach).
- The present gap (excluding the potential 3 new sign ups) is around £20,000 which would be covered if there were 14 residential sign ups. Business premises have a higher voucher value of £3500) which would reduce the numbers needed.
- If we do not reach this threshold then Broadwas village which has some 120 connections will lose out on an opportunity that is now unlikely to come up again for some time. Fortunately, it looks as if 97 connections (i.e parishioner households and businesses) will benefit.

Action required

- The Parish Council is asked to actively support the above steps.

Richard Burrows 30.1.21