

Report for meeting of the Parish Council 14th June 2021

Re: Community Fibre Partnership - Fibre to Premises Broadband

Report author: Richard Burrows

Update and current position.

The **Cotheridge- Church Lane scheme (CPF40977)** has now progressed to the final stage, which means that it is now contracted in and delivery can be expected in the next 12 months.

The **Little Green scheme (PF9337)** is stalled as a result of the DCMS declining some vouchers. Openreach have reapplied but there are delays at DCMS due to the backlog created by the end of this scheme. It is understood that Openreach are hopeful that the necessary vouchers will be allowed, but as yet there is neither a completion date or certainty about this. In the event that the scheme cannot progress we may have the opportunity to re submit under the new arrangements. It is understood that the top up from WCC has been set aside for the application currently in hand.

Broadwas/Knightwick (PF94497). Due to the hard work and efforts of a number of volunteers, we have sufficient sign ups with a “top up” from WCC (or elsewhere please see below*). However because of the closure of the former scheme we were not able to submit the application. However we are now waiting for confirmation of the new scheme details which will allow us to put forward the sign ups. Details are expected this month.

The following actions are necessary

- ***revisit existing sign ups and confirm (Broadwas and Cotheridge Broadwas)***
- ***Replace any lost sign ups due to for example a house sale and new residents***
- ***Make another attempt to sign up further households and businesses.***
- ***Communicate to all parishioners the current and intended position.***

Cotheridge Broadwas (PF93364) This scheme has been subject to some changes in terms of addresses but there is now a new final offer for 22 premises (£54K). As with Broadwas main village this will fall under the new scheme, so the actions required are the same.

- * Malvern Hills District Council has recognised the need for possible support for such schemes within their Covid Recovery Plan, which may mean subject to further coordination between MHDC and WCC that our schemes will benefit.

Summary and actions required

The Parish Council as the Community Fibre Partnership and legal entity will wish to review and consider progress, in order to confirm its intention to continue with the 3 outstanding schemes.

This will require an ongoing contribution in terms of time and support.

Councillors are asked to endorse the actions outlined in the report