

Update for Broadwas and Cotheridge Parish Council 13.4.2020

- Defibrillator – Plans on hold pending COVID 19 to request check and update on equipment – access to on line registration system still unresolved
- Community Fibre Partnership
We set the 15th of March as the deadline. We circulated by post a letter and form to all of the 216 addresses supplied by Openreach and the WCC team.

We have promoted this through Footprints, word of mouth and the parish website.

The parish is divided into 4 areas (on the basis of proximity to local cabinets) and we have initial projected cost from Open reach for each. (This may change but provides a target for sign up, and therefore helps reach a decision as to whether the value of the vouchers covers the cost of instillation).

Having collated the response rate (previously circulated) see also below, we consulted with the WCC team who have advised that we make a second effort to increase the rate of sign up. (This is apparently not unusual).

Little Green (PF93337) 27 addresses supplied

Declined 1

Accepted 9 (domestic)
1 (business)

Total returns 11 = 41% conversion 10 = 37%

* Little Green remaining addresses currently subject to a leaflet drop

Broadwas (PF94497) 121 addresses supplied

Declined 1

Accepted 22 (domestic)
3 (business)

Total returns 26 = 21% conversion 25 = 21%

Cotheridge/Church Lane (PF94584) 53 addresses supplied

Declined 0

Accepted 8 (domestic)
4 (business)

Total returns 12 = conversion rate of 23%

Cotheridge/Broadwas (PF93364) 15 addresses supplied

Declined 0

Accepted 1 (domestic)
1 (business)

Total returns 2 = conversion rate 13%

Total for parish

Returns 51/216 = 24%

Conversion = 49/216 = 23%

Please note that there have been a small number of positive responses since this analysis.

Please see below advice from WCC

So – on Little Green, we are £13,500 off – not too bad – as 16 addresses not responded. I know 1 person is moving house and she would not have responded. If we get 9 – we are fully covered.

Lets hope so.

2. Broadwas (PF94497) – current initial offer (subject to change) is c. £138k. £43,500 pledged. But 95 premises not responded. So plenty of scope.

Cotheridge/Church Lane (PF94584) 53 addresses supplied – current initial offer (subject to change) is c. £78k £26,000 pledged. But 41 premises not responded. So plenty of scope.

Cotheridge/Broadwas (PF93364) 15 addresses supplied – total cost £37,715. I have £22,500 confirmed and 8 premises not responded yet. Again – doable, but need everyone to respond.

On the basis of the advice we have been given we have leafleted (thanks to a local resident) the addresses we have not heard from in Little Green, as we are not far short (c£13 k or about 9 domestic addressed). Cllr Cullen is contacting the non-responders in Cotheridge/Church Lane to see if we can increase the response rate.

We need to identify Cllrs and or parishioners to undertake a similar exercise in relation to the other 2 areas.

What we have learned?

- Those who have signed up did so promptly.
- There were a number of queries relating to these, which are summarized below.
- A small number, were kind enough to respond and decline, this resulted in the chance for a conversation and broadly these were older people who did not currently use the Internet. Whilst they could still sign up, they would have to take and pay for a service they would not be able to use, so whilst they wanted to support the community effort, they reasonably felt they would not.

- The potential need to break a contract or change supplier was an issue for some, but generally we have been able to reassure them. E.G a number of large providers have or have indicated they will join the Openreach provider list, including Sky. As this is a national scheme it is likely that other providers will join. Generally where there is not a need to change supplier the upgrade (in order to be able to benefit from higher speed and capacity resulting from FTTP) will be negotiable and not result in a significant increase in cost, which is in any case only a requirement for 12 months. That said this could serve to discourage some people.
- It has been helpful to be able to talk to people, as often people don't always recognize the need and have quite good speeds anyway (though some in the parish have very low speeds). We have found it useful to talk about the future both in terms of making the sale of a property more attractive and the trend for more and more things to be done on line. Those with teenagers needed little encouragement to sign up.

There is significant tranche of addresses, and in some instances these are clustered, who have not responded therefore it is difficult to make assumptions as to why they have not done so.

Similarly we have not had a response from all businesses, so again it will be helpful to follow this up.

Prior to COVID 19 there was a concern that the national fund was running low, but we were reassured that the recently elected government had included in their manifesto commitments to extend the opportunity for all to have superfast FTTP broadband.

Councilors are asked to consider the following

- That we continue with a further effort to increase sign up, on the basis that given we can reach a break even point this would be of benefit to the parish as a whole.
- That we consider whether there are any other steps we could consider to make the case and support an inward investment in the parish of c£240k.

Richard Burrows