

Report for Parish Meeting/Parish Council

13.5.19

Re: Parish Hall Wi-fi and Gigabyte Scheme

The Village Hall Management Committee and the Parish Council have for some time been exploring the desirability of wi-fi being available in the Village Hall.

Various evaluations have been undertaken, and a potential barrier has been the cost of connecting the village hall to the local “cabinet” as the hall does not have a phone line.

During the course of these enquiries we became aware of a government funded Gigabyte scheme, which is coordinated locally by the County Council.

As a result the Parish Council agreed to launch a consultation to see if there was sufficient interest from local residents and businesses to make an application.

If an application is made subject to the number dwellings and premises that express an interest BT Open Plan provide an estimate of the cost for providing fibre optic connections from the cabinets to the relevant premises. The advantages of this would include faster speeds and future proofing regarding the continued reliance on the Internet for services and recreation.

Dependent on the cost of installation and the scale of response then the available grant could cover the cost or mean that there would only be a small cost for each new connection.

There will be a presentation at the Parish meeting, which will enable us to ask questions.

We may then need to consult further as not all people will need or see the advantage of a faster connection, and of course some do not use the Internet.

As a part of this process, we are also obtaining an estimate for connecting the village hall so that we can move forward with making wi-fi available for users.