

Broadwas and Cotheridge Parish Council

Community Fibre Partnership – Fibre to the Premises (FTTP) Broadband

Update report for meeting: 14th September 2020.

Parish Councillors will note previous reports outlining that despite 2 direct mail shots to addresses supplied by Open Reach, there has been insufficient expressions of interest for the value of vouchers to cover the cost of instillation.

It is important to note that there has been a number of enquires from those who have signed up, eager to know what progress has been made. Each of these has been responded to and updated.

Although a significant number of parishioners do not appear to recognise the potential benefits and value of the scheme, councillors are reminded that if the scheme were to progress the parish would be at the forefront of the digital revolution and benefit from approximately £300,000 inward investment.

Following on from the last meeting, the actions identified were progressed; these did not indicate that there were any alternatives that could potentially fill the gap. The specialist advice to the PC was therefore;

- The PC should consider a further round of contacting addresses that had not responded.

The intention was in addition to the above to also ask the PC whether it wished to continue in its role as the Community Fibre Partnership i.e. in effect withdraw from the scheme.

However yesterday (Saturday 12th September) Worcestershire County Council announced additional funding that may assist with the position we (and others) find them in.

This is attached for information. As yet the full details are not known, but should the PC wish further enquires could be made and on this basis the PC may be able to continue with the scheme.

Richard Burrows 13.9.2020