



Connecting Ashendon

Ashendon Broadband - Connecting Ashendon

Report Date: Monday 15th May 2017

By: Sian Miller (Ashendon Parish Council Lead) and David Crwys-Williams (Connecting Ashendon CIC, Chair and Treasurer)

Progress/Activity

Whilst there has been no apparent progress or activity on the installation we have been assured that the project is progressing in line with expectations and has been allocated an Openreach Delivery Manager. BT Openreach advise that, *“based on other community funded structures we install, it could be a few months before we get to see any visible activity because the next stage of the process takes quite a while.”* The project must be complete by 17th March 2018 - so, although this seems a long way away we have just 10 months to go.

The next phase that Openreach will be working on is typically the field survey. At the survey stage, Openreach take the blueprints from the design stage into the community, and check that what looks good on paper works in the real world. Surveys and any formal requests for planning permission will be carried out in due course. Openreach will conduct the survey and won't need to contact us about doing this.

The Openreach surveyor needs to check that there's enough space alongside all the existing utilities underground for the new cables, and whether there's enough space to accommodate the equipment. They'll also need to determine things like whether any road closures are needed to install fibre and, if so, apply to the local authority for road traffic management, traffic lights etc. They'll work closely with the local authority to make sure fibre is installed safely and with the minimum of disruption to local people.

In the early days of the project, the vast majority of the work goes unseen by communities as it's all back office activities e.g. agreeing contacts with mains utilities suppliers and contractors for civils works.

Key Achievements

In our last update we listed a children's film night and a cake extravaganza on the funds raised. These events were both initiated by children in our village who rely on Broadband for school and social activities. Their enthusiasm and commitment to make this project work really highlights the importance of keeping communications infrastructure up to modern day standards even in the smallest of villages. Here are some pictures from both events.



Questions and Answers Raised in the Community

Q. Can we ask for quote to install a third cabinet (near the church) to improve speeds in Lower End, Forge Close and Brick Hill?

A. BT Openreach have been asked to prepare a proposal for a third cabinet and to advise on the benefits.

Q. Are the bare wires below the telegraph pole next to Forge Close anything to do with the Broadband installation?

A. No, BT Openreach have not started any cabling yet so these wires are nothing to do with our installation.

Q. Has the power source been identified?

A. The power source will be agreed and sub-contracted for delivery with the mains utilities supplier. BT Openreach have not confirmed if the source is yet identified.