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PLEASE READ!

Presteigne and Norton Gigabit Fibre Broadband Scheme

Dear Resident,

This letter is sent to you by Presteigne and Norton Town Council Re. a new fibre broadband project underway. The purpose of the letter is to establish the level of interest in providing a reliable and ultra-fast broadband connection of between 100 Mbps to 1000Mbps to the homes and businesses in our area, depending on which price option you choose. The project is supported by our County Councillor, Beverley Baynham.

This letter requires your urgent attention to allow the level of interest to be assessed. Without sufficient interest it cannot proceed.

Introduction

The Town Council recently met to consider how reliable and fast broadband provision can be brought to our area and we have chosen Broadway Partners to deliver the project to supply ultra-fast broadband to our area. Broadway Partners is a company already delivering a number of full fibre networks in Monmouthshire and Pembrokeshire and about to start work in Powys in Llanafan Fawr and Llanwrthwl with plans in development for many other communities across Powys, Ceredigion and Carmarthenshire.

Currently there is significant financial support available from the UK and Welsh Governments (*subject to meeting a number of requirements of course*).

Our aim is to have a broadband service in our community which is comparable with the fastest speeds available in Wales. Funding of up to £3000 per residential property and £7000 per business property is currently available for each rural property in Powys that suffers from poor broadband. Farms are identified as business properties. The funding is only available to support community schemes and cannot be accessed by individuals alone. We hope to not only connect properties currently out of reach of a workable broadband connection but to improve and increase current speeds and future proof the connections of all who register.

How much will this cost?

Installation is free to any household or business wishing to be part of the scheme that is eligible for a voucher. Those committing to the scheme will then pay a monthly fee for the broadband service they are connected to. A monthly fee of £19.99 provides the minimum service of 100 Mbps fibre-based broadband connection with unlimited data, with options available at additional cost for 300 Mbps and 1,000 Mbps. (*It is also possible to have an internet "VOIP" telephone service (you can keep your existing number)*). If you chose to do this, you will not need to pay line rental for a telephone as may currently be the case with your present provider. Call charges will be in addition. The initial contract will be 12 months in length, after this time you may cease your contract or change provider if you wish. You will find the monthly costs very competitive and will benefit from greatly increased internet speeds.

What technology will be used?

The funding scheme requires connections to be via fibre optic cables connected directly to your property. NB do not confuse this with Openreach's "superfast fibre" broadband which only provides a high-speed connection to your nearest Openreach cabinet with a typical speed to your property between 30 and 70 Mbps. Compared to other technologies, a full fibre connection allows the installation to have a far longer lifespan as well as ensuring the infrastructure can support much faster broadband speeds both now and in the future. A fibre-based system can deliver speeds up to 1 gigabit per second (*ie 1,000 Mbps*). This type of service is typically only available in urban areas and is far superior to the usual Openreach broadband service provided over existing copper telephone lines or a combination of fibre to the cabinet and copper to the property. If you have a fibre to the property connection your speeds can still be greatly improved, will future proof your property, will cost you nothing and if after 12 months you decide to return to a previous provider you are free to do so.

How will the cables be installed?

Broadway's focus is on putting the service in place as quickly as possible. They will use existing Openreach poles and ducting wherever possible. They also have an agreement to use Western Power low voltage poles. Where necessary, they will put up new poles or install new ducting.

Will households and businesses have to ‘sign-up’ before work can begin?

Households will only be required to register their interest to be part of the scheme. To make the scheme viable, a minimum of approx 30% of the households and businesses in our communities will need to register their interest. It will be possible to be connected to the new network at some point after it has been installed, but this could incur installation costs which could be significant. Registering your interest to join the scheme now removes any installation costs as they are met by government grants.

NOTE: THIS PROJECT WILL TAKE SOME TIME – EVEN IF YOU ARE IN CONTRACT CURRENTLY YOU CAN STILL REGISTER.

Would waiting for Openreach be a better idea?

There is no evidence that Openreach are interested in extending their existing superfast broadband service to those properties that are not currently connected.

What happens next?

It is essential that we know how many households and businesses have signed-up to be part of the scheme as soon as possible, as we need to achieve 30% coverage to get the project underway. This will allow Broadway to access the government grants for the installations across our community.

If you wish to register your interest in the scheme, please do so in one of the following ways:

Complete the attached form and return it to the Clerk to the Town Council (*address at the bottom of the form*)

Go to www.broadwaybroadband.co.uk - enter your postcode and register your interest online.

At this stage you are NOT committing to take the service, just registering your interest. Please do this as soon as possible.

What if I need further information?

If at this stage you would like more information, please don't hesitate to contact Reece Simmons, Wales Regional Manager, Broadway Partners: Email: reece.simmons@broadwaypartners.co.uk
Or you may email or call the Town Clerk via the contact details above.

Finally, I would like to stress what an important community-based scheme this is and how much we hope you will feel able to register your interest and help us ensure those living or working in this area have access to broadband internet that matches the best in Wales and the UK.

The Town Council has a facebook page on which to post information and updates. Please visit and like this this page so we can keep you informed.

Please act now - do not leave registration for another day or think others will do it so you need not bother. It really is important that you register and there is no commitment at this point.

Yours faithfully,

Mayor and Chairman, Presteigne and Norton Town Council

Presteigne and Norton Fibre Broadband Scheme

I/we wish to express an interest in the Fibre Broadband Scheme. I understand the information I provide will be shared with the preferred provider of the ultra-fast fibre broadband service in the Presteigne and Norton area.

Please complete **IN BLOCK CAPITALS** a separate form for each individual household or business (*for example, if you have a house and a separate holiday cottage, please complete two forms*)

Your name:

Your address:

..... Postcode:

Your telephone number(s):

Your email address:

Your signature(s):

Please return your completed form to the following:

Mrs Tracey Price, Clerk to Presteigne and Norton Town Council,c/o Garn Farm, Chapel Lawn, Bucknell, Shropshire, SY7 0BT
Or via email to: presteigneandnortontc@outlook.com

NOTE: YOUR INFORMATION WILL BE SHARED BETWEEN THE TOWN COUNCIL AND BROADWAY PARTNERS AND USED TO CONTACT YOU ABOUT THIS SCHEME. IT WILL NOT BE USED FOR ANY OTHER PURPOSE.