

BROADBAND

UPDATE

May 2015



What a difference a month makes!!

The village hall has hosted three open evenings and the broadband group have been advised on an exciting new development.

'Better Broadband for Oxfordshire' – Oxfordshire County Council announced in March that an extra 6500 'hard to reach' homes and businesses would now receive high speed fibre broadband following an additional £5.1 million funding from district and government sources.

The broadband group have received confirmation this week from Pete Stanton (ICT Programme Manager, OCC) that Piddington will now be **included** in the new phase of the rollout.

Whilst this is incredibly welcome news we will have to wait until late 2016 to receive this service which is also subject to BT Openreach surveys in the area.

This latest phase includes the following OX25 post codes: 1PD, 1PS, 1PT, 1PU, 1PX, 1PR, 1PY, 1QA, 1QB, 1QE, 1QD.

You can read more on the rollout (including a coverage map for Oxfordshire) at www.betterbroadbandoxfordshire.org.uk.

The broadband group have put together a broadband comparison chart which is attached to this update.

BT OPENREACH

The BT Openreach evening was held on Wednesday 6th May and was well attended by villagers from Piddington and Ludgershall. At that time neither BT Openreach nor the broadband group were aware that Piddington had been added to the roll-out. The presentation focused on the surveys undertaken to put together the quotation of £58,000 (plus vat) to have the service installed by private funding. As a consequence the evening was a pretty feisty affair. Recent developments have now rendered the quotation redundant.

Whilst the BDUK funded service is over a year from happening BT Openreach advised that the leadtime, had we decided to raise the funds, would have still been 9 months from contract agreement.

GIGACLEAR

The Gigaclear group attended the Pantry on April 18th and held their open evening on 28th April which was also well attended. Gigaclear have subsequently realised the 30% order requirement needed and are currently in contact with their contractors and with the Highways agency concerning a schedule of works in our area, and are aiming to announce this in the next couple of weeks.

Every property in the village will have access to their fibre regardless of whether you have placed an order. These underground connection points will be installed at the boundary of every property. The connection point looks exactly the same as a water meter/stop-cock pot. There is no cost to have the connection point installed.

Just before installation starts you will see a small blue cane appear outside your property. This is the marker for the location of the Gigaclear connection point, if they cannot install the cane, as the ground is too hard, they will mark the location with a blue paint spot so the contractors know where to install. If there is a problem with this location, please notify them by emailing at info@gigaclear.com or calling the office directly on 01865 5911000. The location for the connection point (pot) is determined based on the route of the cables.

There will be some disruption in the village with trenches dug along some pavements, verges and roads, together with a number of road crossings. Once all works are complete, the grounds will be reinstated to the Highways Agency standard.

There are a number of stages to this project which will involve some areas having to be worked on for longer than others. These will include several 'pits' that will need to be left open for several weeks as this is where the fibres all meet. Once the connections are complete, the pits will be closed and should not need to be reopened again under normal circumstances. Whilst the pits are open, they will be protected with appropriate barriers for personal safety as well as equipment safety.

Villagers, who have already ordered the service, and have selected 'Gigaclear Approved Installer' as their installation choice, will be contacted by Boxcom before the build is complete to arrange installation.

For more details Gigaclear website is: www.gigaclear.com

VILLAGE NETWORKS

Village Networks have been providing broadband at 6Mb/s to the village, through wireless technology, for the last couple of years. At their open evening on May 14th they announced that their network is currently being updated and that they will shortly be in a position to offer **unlimited** Superfast (24Mb/s) speeds. Those already signed up with Village Networks will be contacted directly when the new service becomes available. They will not need to alter their existing reception method.

Village Networks currently provide a free 24Mb/s service to the village hall for those wanting to try out this upgraded service. Their new website is currently under construction: www.villagenetworks.co.uk but for more information you can contact them on email (info@villagenetworks.co.uk) or phone (03333 321817).

SUMMARY

Villagers will shortly be in a position to choose the type of superfast broadband they want for their family and business needs which is a very long way from the dark days three years ago when the broadband steering group was set up and you were lucky to achieve 1Mb/s!!! Much lobbying has happened at district and county level in that time. The group, who will become part of the Piddington 'Community-Led Plan' initiative, will continue to monitor the Openreach situation and will advise the village of any major updates to the programme. Gigaclear are believed will become 'live' by September and we expect Village Networks to have their own superfast infrastructure in place by the autumn also. Happy surfing!!