



South West Chilterns Community Board – Broadband Workstream – Meeting Notes

Date/Time: Wednesday 10 February 2021 at 1600hrs via MS Teams

1. Present

Cllr Mark Turner - Chair

Cllr David Johncock

Cllr Chris Whitehead

Cllr Mark Harris

Cllr Julia Adey

Cllr Mike Appleyard

Cllr Roger Wilson

Cllr Alex Collingwood

Sue Hynard – Office of Steve Baker MP

Jacqueline Dinah-Hayward

Paul Caplin

Dominic John

James Robinson

Jackie Binning – North West Chilterns Community Board Coordinator

Makyla Devlin – South West Chilterns Community Board Coordinator

2. Apologies

None received

3. Notes and actions from previous meeting

The last meeting was in January meeting was cancelled due to no real update.

Action	Date	Holder	Timescale	Update
Look at how the Government proposals can be achieved and funded	19/11/2020	Sue Hynard	By December Meeting	Ongoing
Cllr Mark Turner to be linked up to Paul Caplin via email	12/01/21	Makyla Devlin	Straight after the meeting	Completed
Circulate the letter sent to Leader Martin Tett	12/01/21	Makyla Devlin	With notes from meeting	Completed
Circulate quote from BT Openreach	12/01/21	Makyla Devlin	With notes from meeting	Completed
Organise a meeting with Swish Fibre, Virgin Broadband and 3 Clicks for Cllr's Collingwood, Johncock and Turner	12/01/21	Cllr Alex Collingwood	Before next meeting on 10 February	Completed
Utilise the skills of MP's Joy Morrissey and Steve Baker through their representatives to stress the importance of this provision in	12/10/21	Sue Hynard Aleksandra Turner	Continual	Continual

our Board Area and look at any possible further funding steams available.				
Establish who the Cabinet Member for Broadband is for Buckinghamshire	12/01/21	Makyla Devlin	<i>At the end of the meeting this was looked into and the Cabinet Member responsible is Cllr Martin Tett.</i>	Completed
Paul Caplin to provide Swish Fibre map for Hedsor	12/01/21	Paul Caplin	Forward to Cllr Mark Turner to attach to meeting notes	Completed

4. Introduction – Cllr Mark Turner

Lane End. Lane End are starting a feasibility study and building a project team. I am joining them on a zoom call tomorrow. They are effectively laying the groundwork for a go/no-go decision for April. There has been relative bombshell in the Openreach T&Cs we did not know about. While there is no contract to sign as a community, individuals who drop out of the scheme having pledged their voucher can be pursued for payment by Openreach for the full voucher amount. Similarly, if Openreach do not complete the build within 12 months, a contract obligation of DCMS Rural Gigabit scheme, they may not be paid the voucher value by DCMS. Openreach T&Cs claim that if the reason for delay for completion of the build is out of their control and they do not get paid by DCMS they can pursue the individual for the voucher value. Openreach claim this has never happened before however LEPC are concerned about this as it may be a stumbling block in terms of sign up, especially bearing in mind there is considerable poverty in parts Lane End.

I have contacted Dominic Barnes as he is on the Red Kite Housing board. There may be an incentive for Red Kite to take the responsibility of signup for their housing in Lane End which may partially solve this issue.

Turville PC Hambleden PC. Openreach have not supplied pricing as yet for this project and will not until DCMS have provided details of future schemes. They have said to me that they are concentrating on projects 'in flight' as they have considerable workload to get these

finalised and any future pricing may depend on structure of any new government funding for the targeted 85% gigabit coverage by 2025.

Bockmer End – As reported

Harvest Hill – In contact with Swish now too who are considering going to Harvest Hill.

As you may know, Cllr Alex Collingwood was going to organise a meeting with several organisations to see what Broadband infrastructure was being laid by Openreach's competitors in our board area.

Cllr Collingwood, Cllr Johncock and I had teams meeting with Alistair Goulden of Swish at the end of January. They do seem to hope to do more in the board area, but sadly cannot be pressed into any guarantees. It is clear that while the numbers are working and they are hitting financial return targets they are given a little leeway to extend their reach to less populous areas. They have recently joined the gigabit scheme too, so that can help with financing these slightly out of town parts. It does not seem to be a solution however.

Cllr Collingwood also booked a meeting with Jim Anderson and James Friel of Instalcom, attended also by Cllr Julia Adey, Cllr Mike Appleyard and Cllr David Johncock and myself.

We heard how Instalcom were installing 'dark fibre' only with the intention of building resilience into the existing framework and ultimately a new data centre in Didcot. It is basically a spine from Slough direct to Didcot. It will not be used for residential spurs and Didcot is one of a growing number of new major data centres planned to keep up with increased traffic volume.

So

We are a little bit in the dark until we find out what DCMS are planning. However there are few things going on nationally.

You have no doubt read about OneWeb and it announced they had struck a tie-up deal with Openreach to get to the rural not-spot areas. This is basically internet via satellite and there appears to be a race to get lots of low orbit satellites into space asap. Starlink owned by Musk are also competing in the UK market for this. Downside is cost of around £80 a month and not gigabit capable to start with.

There is also a new deal with EE and Vodafone and maybe others for joint ownership and to manage and install more 3g-4g masts to help rural not-spots. Again unlikely to be gigabit capable so may help Universal Service Obligation but not the 2025 government target.

I think we need to see if we can find out asap what DCMS are planning. Is that possible with our connections?

Not sure what more we can do at the moment so open to suggestions here.

5. Open Discussion

- Cllr David Johncock - Harvest Hill/Hollands Farm in Bourne End. We need to make sure that Swish Fibre are aware of this as a new development. James responded, any new builds of over 20 houses, Openreach will connect up for free under the gigabite scheme
- Cllr Mike Appleyard - it was established last meeting that we are looking at two projects predominantly, the “motorway” scheme and the installing broadband into homes directly and we need to keep the two separate. Have received a press release from Instalcom in the areas of Bourne End and Wooburn Green to the residents but it says nothing about what is happening in the area and is really only a sales pitch about the company. I will be responding to the company direct and will update the group with any responses. Cllr Alex Collingwood responded – Instalcom is going into Bourne End/Wooburn Green, Marlow and then across to the villages where roads are being dug up. They are putting in dark fibre but this isn’t going to the houses. A lot of disruption for no gain to the residents. Cllr Julia Adey commented, the press release was just an advert for themselves and of not help to residents. A detailed press release is needed to provide clear information as to what is happening and why the disruption will not benefit the residents.
- Sue Hynard – three MP’s have been contacted with regards to Broadband and all have an interest, but Greg Smith MP office is dealing with this. Question from Cllr Chris Whitehead – is the Minister aware of what we are trying to achieve within our area and the frustrations that are being experienced? Sue responded APPG in Parliament on broadband, almost everyone has somewhere within their constituencies where there is little coverage. This is such a huge problem they are looking to local authorities to look into this under a Government framework.
- Dominic John – regarding Hawks Hill/Harvest Hill, had a meeting with Openreach and this area is not on any of their plans so nothing for between 2-4 years. Have spoken to Swish Fibre and this area is not on their plans either. Clearfibre, they put together a proposal covering this area and Wooburn Green for approx. 740 homes and have produced costings based on 60% penetration. Is there any other funding available if not from Government? Response from James – Contact F and W Networks broadband. ISP is Hay broadband and they are looking for areas wanting people who are keen to progress quickly. Would be worth a quote from them. The Council do not have any funding for a project like this.

- Cllr Chris Whitehead – the £600k pot, is this available fund to be bid for? Suggest that Buckinghamshire Council Leader, Cllr Martin Tett is invited to the next broadband workstream meeting to provide some steer and direction in terms of funding available for this project in line with Council objectives.
- Cllr Alex Collingwood – we need some clarity on the providers. Equally, need to know how the £600k is allocated. Response from James – in 2018 there was an invitation to tender and through DEFRA funding, looked at what they could connect. The only response received was from Openreach. All of the premises have been highlighted but relates to businesses only. If there are residential properties very close by then they will also benefit. Information on the above will be sent to the group
- Cllr David Johncock – following talks with Swish Fibre, It appears we are looking at areas that are commercially viable when we should perhaps be focussing on the more rural areas.

6. Actions and next steps

Action	Date	Holder	Timescale
Invite Buckinghamshire Council Leader, Cllr Martin Tett to next broadband workstream meeting	10/02/21	Makyla Devlin	In readiness for next meeting
Provide Tender information re DEFRA funding and Openreach	10/02/21	James Robinson	In readiness for next meeting
Provide list of “not spots”	10/02/21	James Robinson/Mark Turner	In readiness for next meeting (appendix 1 of these notes)

7. Date of next meeting

Broadband workstream to meet on mid March – Date to be determined and invites will be sent out via MS Teams.

Appendix 1



Jack Data - South
West Chilterns Comm

<https://www.broadbandspeedchecker.co.uk/broadband-speed-in-my-area.html>

Example of the results using the above link.

The screenshot displays the broadband speed checker interface. At the top, there is a dropdown menu for "What is your current broadband speed you pay for?" set to "24 Mb/s". Below this is a "Your location" field with a "(privacy policy)" link. A blue button "Click to try again" is positioned above the location input. The location input contains "SL72HU". To the right of the input is an "or" label and a "Reset location" button. A red button "Show speeds in my area" is located below the input field. On the left side of the interface, there is a yellow rectangular area. Below the search controls is a map showing a residential area. A callout box on the map displays the BT logo, a speed of "0.69 Mb/s", and "1 result". To the right of the map, a summary box shows "1 provider" and "1 result". Below the summary box, there is a text prompt: "Click on the map to see more details here." At the bottom left of the screenshot, there is a small text fragment: "WEST CHILT... NOV 20 11:51".