

Welcome to update 5 of the Kilmeston, Cheriton & Bramdean campaign for Fibre to the Premises (FTTP)

Positive news

We have now submitted the final application to Openreach. We have also received word that Hampshire County Council is prepared to top up the Government's "Gigabit vouchers" (which are worth £1,500 per household and £3,000 per business). We have 209 households and businesses who have committed to take a FTTP service for at least one year once the infrastructure is installed and connected.

Potential difficulties

At the moment, we understand that HCC has only allocated £1M for the whole of Hampshire for this project. Given that the last estimate of costs we received from Openreach was just over £600,000 and our 209 applicants attract £313,000 of voucher funding (plus a bit for the business applicants), it's clear that either the Openreach cost has to be lower or the HCC funding will need to be increased. We await developments on this.

Inevitably, when Openreach or the Department for Culture, Media and Sport gives us the green light, there will be some of the 209 applicants who don't reply to the email or text message (or whatever it is) to agree to take the fibre service. They may have changed their minds or not read their emails or, given the length of time this has taken, they may have died. **If we are significantly short of responses at that moment, the whole project may collapse.**

Down farm

A potential positive has arisen in respect of Kilmeston. For reasons that I won't bore you with, a fibre cable has been laid between Beauworth (which has FTTP) and Down Farm House and Down Farm on the road between Kilmeston and The Milburys. It is far from certain but just possible that this cable can be extended into Kilmeston in a way that reduces the overall cost of the project.

What you must do next

Be ready to react to any email or text message that invites you to commit your voucher to Openreach. Check your spam folders. If you receive such a message, you **MUST** reply to it. If you have any doubts about the authenticity of the message, don't hesitate to contact us at fbrekilmeston@gmail.com or by telephone.

Kind regards

Dr Graham Cresswell

for Cllr Jason Bridgen, Tom Haye, Guy Hornsey & David Annette.

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