

We're really making progress now.

Pledging is no longer required, but VALIDATION of your pledges is now CRITICAL.

The good news is that some of you may already have received an email from Gigabit Vouchers (from: [gigabit.vouchers@notifications.service.gov.uk](mailto:gigabit.vouchers@notifications.service.gov.uk)) headed *Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme – action required*. But not all of you. It turns out that the Department for Culture, Media and Sport can only send out 35 emails a day! (You couldn't make this stuff up – well actually, you could)

When you get it, the email shows your unique voucher code and requests that you confirm your agreement to allow Openreach to request your voucher to help fund the cost of connecting the gigabit-capable service (FTTP) to your address. It gives you 28 days to confirm agreement. This process is known as “validation of the voucher”. There's a link in the email that makes the process very simple. Once you have validated, you will receive another email thanking you for validating your order.

Please act on this email AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. After 28 days, your voucher lapses and, **if Openreach don't receive the required number of validations, the scheme may fall through** and we'll all be stuck with slow internet for the foreseeable future.

We imagined that we would all receive these emails simultaneously but it's clear that, owing to the 35 emails/day limit(!), many of you have not yet received one. Please check your spam or junk folders and, if you don't receive the email within the next week, please let us know. Check also that your friends and neighbours have received and acted upon the email.

Validating your voucher commits you contractually to taking a superfast internet service from any internet service provider (ISP)...

1. within 2 months of the service becoming available and
2. for a contract period of at least 12 months.

Our latest information from Openreach is that they aim to have the network built and ready for orders by 08/07/2023. Undoubtedly this date will be rather speculative at the moment but it may help you to give notice to your current ISP, if necessary.

I have been researching potential ISP charges and it's clear that the change to FFTP will save most households money. I'm putting, on the Kilmeston website, some information from Vodafone and from EE, which will give you an idea of the prices that are currently on offer from those two ISPs. Go to [kilmeston.org.uk](http://kilmeston.org.uk) and then *Parish Council, Hot topics, Broadband and ISP offers*. There's also access to a *Which?* article.

Please be aware that these offers change all the time and there are plenty of other ISPs competing.

Kind regards

Graham Cresswell

for

Cllr Jason Bridgen

Tom Haye

Guy Hornsey

David Annette (Cheriton lead)