

#### Update No 14 for Kilmeston, Cheriton & Bramdean FTTP project CFP 46126

There was no Update 13 as one of our number is deeply superstitious (and maybe suspicious). We've come so far that he couldn't face the risk of it falling over at this stage!

Here is the latest.

Openreach made a start on the FTTP build just before Christmas and claim to be making great progress on this. Certainly you will have seen that there's lots of activity in Kilmeston but those of you in Cheriton and Bramdean should not despair. The reason the build is starting in Kilmeston is because the nearest connection to the main network has come from the Beauworth cable, which initially terminated at Down Farm. Openreach is using equipment at Down Farm to extend the network up to Kilmeston and Neil Saunders has very kindly allowed them to lay the cable across his land up to the top of Dean House Lane. The cable will then follow on to Cheriton and Bramdean.

We have yet to get a firm date for "go live" but we understand that it is expected that Kilmeston will be connected some time before the original estimate in July 2023 and that Cheriton and Bramdean will be connected shortly afterwards.

In Update 12, I made the rather all-encompassing statement that...

*"we will ALL get FTTP at NO COST. It doesn't matter if you applied or not, pledged or not, or validated or not. Therefore there is NO FURTHER REQUIREMENT for pledges or validations"*

This has proved to be very slightly over-optimistic and I apologise. I'm fairly certain that we will ALL get FTTP at NO COST but the Openreach "Rural Engagement Officer" (who makes up these job titles?!) has been asking for pledges and validation from some households, notably those where there has been a change of householder. Given that this project has taken so long, it's not surprising that some people have moved house or died, so it may be worth checking on...

<https://www.openreach.co.uk/connectmycommunity>

to make see if your house remains unpledged.

Also, if you have new neighbours who have moved in since this saga began, please check that they know about the project and, if not, ask them to contact [fibreilmeston@gmail.com](mailto:fibreilmeston@gmail.com).

Finally, I continue to be exercised by the difficulties in getting information from potential Internet Service Providers (ISPs). On all their websites, the first question they ask you is your postcode. Since none of our postcodes has FTTP yet, the website then only shows you offers for slow broadband. I have

managed to get some information from Vodafone and rather less from EE but I have not succeeded in getting anything from BT or others. Such information as I have obtained, I have uploaded to the Kilmeston website

visit <https://kilmeston.org.uk/>  
dropdown "Parish Council" and follow [Hot topics] and [Broadband]  
in this menu you can go to

ISP offers, which will take you to Vodafone, EE and some others  
a Which? article, which I have linked (with their permission).

But if you would like to do a bit of your own research, there's a list of the ISPs currently using the Openreach infrastructure at

<https://www.openreach.com/fibre-broadband/fttp-providers>

I have tried to contact them all and, in due course, if I can weed out the ones that are clearly not appropriate, I'll try to put some summaries on the website.

If you contact any of these ISPs, here is a list of questions that you might like to ask...

1. what is your monthly charge and contract length for each of the speeds you can offer?
2. does your monthly charge include line rental?
3. for each product: is usage capped, or speed throttled?
4. does your service include a landline and, if so
  - a. will I have to change my number?
  - b. what are your standard charges for calls to UK landlines?
  - c. what are your standard charges for calls to UK mobile numbers?
  - d. what packages (bolt-ons) do you offer for
    - i. weekend/ evening UK calls
    - ii. anytime UK calls
    - iii. does each package cover calls to UK mobile numbers?
5. will you discount if I take mobile 'phone services with you?
6. will you supply a modem?
7. will you supply a back-up battery if I need one?

We're getting there.

Kind regards

Graham Cresswell

for

Cllr Jason Bridgen

Tom Haye

Guy Hornsey

David Annette (Cheriton lead)