Notes from the Scamblesby with Cawkwell Broadband Meeting
Wednesday 4th November 2015 19.30pm

Notes

Present:
Open meeting with over 100 villagers in attendance
Hosted by Daniel Simpson
Guests: Stephen Brookes – Onlincolnshire Superfast Broadband Programme Manager
         Rachel Storer – Office of Victoria Atkins MP

Introduction. Meeting introduced by Daniel Simpson. Purpose of meeting to understand where we are now with respect to superfast broadband (SFB) and what the plans for the future are. Stephen Brookes and Rachel Storer introduced.

Stephen Brookes – Introduced himself as Programme Manager responsible for the rollout of superfast broadband throughout Lincolnshire.

Current progress - In March 2013 Onlincolnshire signed a £40MM contract with BT the objective to provide SFB to 90% of properties in Lincolnshire. The strategy was to cover as many premises as possible for the money invested, and the most commercially viable solution was to build out using BT's current infrastructure. The programme delivers fibre to BT's existing cabinets and provides speeds of up to 80mbps.

There are 8 tranches in phase 1 and the programme is currently delivering phase 7.   The programme is currently exceeding delivery target and has a £9MM underspend.

Phase 2 is currently being planned, there is a budget of approx. £18MM and it is planned to start in March 2016 and finish in Dec 2017.

Scamblesby – Scamblesby is fed from a cabinet in Stenigot. This cabinet was enabled with fibre in October 2016. Where properties are more than 2km from the cabinet they are unlikely to see any benefit from the upgrade. Unfortunately Scamblesby is over 4km away, too far to get any benefit. Providing Scamblesby with SFB will be built into phase 2 of the programme which is currently being planned. It is likely that 'remote nodes' will be put in place around the village and supplied with fibre. Some properties may also be supplied direct with fibre.

Each remote node will cover 16 properties and they will be scattered around the village to maximise benefit. The aim is to get everyone at least 10-12mbps, but upwards of 24mbps for most. The plan has not yet been finalised so exact dates are not yet available.

The remote node is a smaller version of the existing cabinets. By placing these closer to homes in Scamblesby, it will reduce the distance the signal travels over copper wire and therefore minimises the loss of signal. Properties within 100m of the nodes will see speeds of 70-80mbps (Scamblesby currently has typical speeds of between 0.25 and 2mbps).

Progress Updates – There will be as much data as possible on the Onlincolnshire website, there are forums on there and it is possible to email Stephen direct to ask for updates. The suggestion was made for the Council to contact Stephen Brookes for quarterly updates and publish on the Parish Council website *parishes*.lincolnshire.gov.uk/*Scamblesby*

Individuals can use the DSL checker on the Onlincolnshire website to see what speeds they can get, once the properties are enabled and can then subscribe to fibre.

The roll out will be future proofed to allow for any increase in properties built in Scamblesby.

Stephen also mentioned that individuals can apply to have satellite connection if living in an isolated area and have speeds of less than 2mbps. The project will pay for the installation of the equipment. Details can be found online at www.onlincolnshire.org

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Rachel Storer – Victoria Atkins MP is doing a lot to push for broadband for rural communities. In a recent House of Commons debate, she mentioned Scamblesby needing more help.

She is currently launching the constituency commission, which is a forum for communities to feedback anything where they think they are disadvantaged. The forum closes on 16th Dec 2015. The website is www.lhcc.org.uk.

Daniel Simpson reconfirmed with Stephen Brookes that Scamblesby was definitely included phase 2 and that the roll out was planned to start in March 2016 and due to finish in Dec 2017. He also reconfirmed that the solution would be to place nodes around the village. The meeting was then closed with DS thanking everyone for attending.

Michelle Moss – Scamblesby Parish Clerk
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