

Plumpton full fibre broadband

Have you ever wondered whether you could get a better broadband service in Plumpton? With full fibre broadband being rolled out across the country it's now possible to upgrade to a much faster and more reliable service for the village. Since 2015 we have enjoyed super-fast broadband in Plumpton but the speed and reliability can vary depending on how far you live away from the green cabinets which are dotted around the village and are the distribution points for internet into your home. It is based on fibre to the cabinet (fttc), which is delivered into your house via copper cable telephone lines. The problem is that the further you live from the cabinet the weaker the signal can be. If you are lucky enough to live close by to the cabinets, with the right provider you can enjoy speeds up to 75 Megabytes per second (Mbps). That's great if you are streaming ultra-high definition films or the kids are gaming on line. But the further you live from the cabinet your signal can degrade quite dramatically, with speeds sometimes slowing down below 5 Mbps. Typically, you should be averaging around 20 to 30 Mbps, which should be sufficient. If you are living in a high-density part of the village, or you live in a large family where everyone may be using the internet at the same time, bandwidth may be under pressure and you may struggle to get a good service. If you are home-working - and many more of us are - then it can be a real pain.

So, what can we do to improve things? We can apply to BT Openreach to replace our current super-fast service with a much faster system called full fibre to the premises (fttp), which can deliver speeds uniformly up to a Gigabyte per second (Gbps) or 1000 Mbps which is incredibly quick. As a village we are eligible to this set up under what's called a Community Fibre Partnership. It may take a little time to organise but there's no time like the present to get started and future-proof our village to new technology.

How much will it cost? Bringing full fibre into the village won't be cheap but the good news is that we can cover all the costs by applying for government-backed vouchers which can be used to pay for the scheme. Under the Community Fibre Partnership scheme, every household in the village is eligible for vouchers worth £1,500, while businesses are eligible for £3,500. Even better news is that East Sussex County Council will top this up by an additional £1,000 raising the totals for homes to £2,500 and £4,500 for businesses.

Our aim is to meet the whole cost of installation through the voucher scheme. The more people who commit to joining the scheme the better the chances fibre can be fully funded at neutral cost to Plumpton. Right now, full fibre broadband is already being installed by BT Openreach for free into new housing schemes like Sigma Homes, but it's something that should be going into all of our homes. It should be there for everyone to benefit and enjoy.

East Chiltington have already successfully applied for full fibre broadband and installation should apparently be completed by March 2022. BT Openreach have said that Plumpton's application for full fibre could take up to 12 months but typically might happen sooner within 8 to 10 months if all goes to plan. The time is right to get the ball rolling.

If you are interested, then please register your details with Plumpton Parish Council by email to plumptonfibre@plumptonpc.co.uk. Please tell your friends and neighbours and help spread the word. The only way we will get full fibre off the ground is to work together as a community.