

11th January 2022	Why would PPC pursue fibre broadband for the village - what does fibre broadband offer that isn't provided by our current service?	Basically speed. Fibre allows speeds that are much faster than existing copper lines. It's difficult to be specific about what speed improvement individual homes will see as this depends on distance from the copper cabinets amongst other things, but as an indication for a Plumpton resident BT will offer a 29MB download service for existing copper lines, but the full fibre packages that are not available for Plumpton start at 150MB and can reach 900MB. Further general details can be found here https://www.moneysupermarket.com/broadband/fibre-optic-broadband-guide/
11th January 2022	Doesn't the village have fibre broadband already?	The village has fibre to the exchange, but not to individual homes (known as Fibre to the Premises, FTTP), with the exception of the new development of Oakfield Lane as all new developments of 20 or more houses must have fibre.
11th January 2022	What is the Community Fibre Partnership scheme?	Its basically a way of banding together to use a government scheme to finance Openreach to speed up fibre rollout to Plumpton. The government subsidises the cost to the tune of £1500 for domestic properties and up to £3500 for businesses. East Sussex has a scheme that adds £1000 to those numbers. Details can be found at https://gigabitvoucher.culture.gov.uk/ and https://www.esussex.org/PublicContent/National%20Schemes
11th January 2022	Has PPC any experience of this scheme?	Not directly, but we have been talking with East Chiltington Parish Council where the scheme is well advanced. You can see details on this at https://www.eastchiltingtonfullfibre.net/
11th January 2022	How would it work for Plumpton?	If enough people are interested in signing up for the scheme, we can then apply for vouchers and approach Openreach to commit to the work. We think that we might need 150-200 residences, which is roughly 25-30% of properties.
11th January 2022	What would I be committing to?	For the expression of interest stage, absolutely nothing. PPC is simply 'testing the water' to find out if the demand is there. For the next stage, you would simply be committing to taking a fibre service for a minimum 12 months with a supplier that gives you at least

		30mbps or doubles your speed if you currently get over 30mbps. This could be your current ISP if they provide FTTP services.
11th January 2022	Is there any predicted costs per household not covered by government grant?	For the creation of the fibre infrastructure it is the intention that the voucher scheme covers all the Openreach costs. At a household level, there may be a cost if your provider levies a separate one off charge for installing a fibre access point.
11th January 2022	Will I need to change my internet service provider?	Only if they don't offer the FTTP fibre service.
11th January 2022	Can I keep my existing home phone number?	Yes that should be the norm, though the move to fibre may open up cheaper services from another supplier.
11th January 2022	Will my broadband costs increase significantly under fibre?	Not necessarily as you can shop around more with fibre providers, but if you stay with the same provider and take a 'better' package then your costs are likely to increase.
11th January 2022	If PPC did nothing when would we get FTTP anyway?	PPC can't answer that with any certainty, but we don't think it will be anytime soon. We have been told before that Plumpton is in the Openreach full fibre rollout programme, but in October 2021 when Openreach published its latest schedule, Plumpton is mentioned as being done between 2021 and 2026. However it is not in the first phase (2021/2022 -2023/2024) nor the second phase (2022/2023 – 2024/2025). PPC therefore assumes that it is around 5 years away. Given that the document states that inclusion in the rollout "does not mean that services will be available from this date, nor that services will be available to every premise." PPC would like to get a guaranteed timescale for the village.
11th January 2022	If we are successful when will we get fibre?	We simply don't know, but understand that Openreach has to work to a service level agreement of around a year from time of order, so it should be a lot quicker.
11th January 2022	If the scheme for the village goes ahead, will there be a loss of service for the switch over?	Possibly, and we will monitor East Chilmington's experience of this.
11th January 2022	Is there any work required to the premises, either external or internal?	There may be a little work based on how your service arrives today – we'll provide more detail when we know the impact.