Hyde Parish Council: Broadband Public Meeting
11th March 2015

MINUTES

The Panel consisted of

Peter Dowling   Chairman, Hyde Parish Council
Ray Scott   Parish resident
Glenn Peacey   HCC Programme Manager, Hampshire Superfast Broadband programme

Peter Dowling gave a brief introduction to clarify the starting position – the two parishes (Hyde and Ellingham, Harbridge & Ibsley) have over 800 properties between them, all needing access to faster broadband either now or in the future – the aim of the group will be to find a solution (s) for everyone, not leaving any area out.

Glenn Peacey gave a synopsis of the work done so far by Hampshire County Council:

<u>Wave 1</u> involved an investment of £10million and will provide faster broadband coverage to 90% of the population via BT Openreach – this project is 50% complete. In the NPA there are issues with the siting of the required DSLAM cabinets, the Verderers will not allow permission for these to be sited on the open forest and so they can only be sited on private land (which may not be possible if the existing cabinets are not adjacent to private land).

<u>Wave 2</u> will involve a further £18million investment and will take coverage to 95% (34000 additional homes). This will be completed by 2018.

<u>The remaining 23000</u> (5%) cannot be served using existing technology – these are the hard to reach properties and include the parish. There are three PCP cabinets in the parish but they have not been "lit" – and even if they were lit they would not provide coverage to the whole parish as speed tails off with distance from the cabinets. There is no Government funding at present for this last 5% - there may be more in the future or it may be that the county councils may have to fund any investment.

Peter Dowling stated that it was therefore unlikely for anything to happen to improve the situation in our Parish until at least 2019.

Ray Scott introduced why households will need faster broadband service in the future and that the costs associated with faster broadband are not simply the infrastructure but also securing an internet service provider for the area. It is unlikely that the larger players (Virgin, TalkTalk, BT) will want to be involved – we need interest from smaller companies. To provide a good service to the whole parish would most likely require at least 6 cabinets (at a cost of over £30k each) – and so it is unlikely that this will be the whole solution, only part of it. There are other solutions – satellite, wireless/microwave, mobile phone 4G, small BT-type devices and fibre taken beyond the BT boxes (very expensive). There will be costs involved if we don't want to wait for HCC to provide a service – we need to lobby HCC for investment (800 properties at £400 each, is a good starting point).

Glenn Peacey noted that communities considering a 50:50 route for funding with HCC will need to be aware of the limitations of council funding – the service would have to be provided via BT. A starting point may be to talk to BT about a self-funded option.

<u>Summary:</u> Will lack of broadband have a negative effect on the community? We don't want to lose the opportunity and wait until 2020 for a faster service.   A show of hands indicated that the majority of those present would like to see action now rather than later.   A request was made for the feedback forms to be completed – either manually or online.

Questions were taken from the floor.