# Better Broadband for Bramhope
# Progress towards faster broadband as at 26 July 2018

## Summary

The northern two-thirds of the village has been able to order faster broadband since 2014, and capacity issues were resolved by 2016.

The recent meeting with SuperFastWestYorkshire and BT Openreach on 26 July confirmed the following implementation dates as part of Phase 2 of the SFWY deployment:

- The Trees / Leeds Road / Kings Road September 2019, with FTTP for some dwellings
- LS 18 5HZ St Helena's Caravan Park and adjacent farms – June 2019 - FTTP
- East Carlton village - March 2020

(Subject to there being no unforeseen technical problems or issues over wayleaves.)

FTTP – Fibre to the Premises will make Superfast Broadband (over 24 mbps download speeds) possible.

Faster broadband does not just happen; households need to purchase a faster broadband package from a supplier, once available.  There are online checkers to identify and validate what is on offer.

A new DCMS voucher scheme offers £3,000 for businesses seeking fibre connections.  Details below

## History

The Parish Council has campaigned for several years to obtain faster broadband speed for residents in Bramhope and Carlton.  A good working relationship has been established with SuperFastWestYorkshire (SFWY), the local authority body that works with BT Openreach to use public funding to best effect in improving rural broadband speed, and with BT Openreach itself.  Regular reviews with SFWY and BT to highlight the issues raised by residents have ensured that this area has remained firmly on the radar for broadband enhancements.

As part of Phase 1 of the SFWY implementation plan, in 2014 the Arthington exchange which serves two thirds of Bramhope itself was upgraded to support faster broadband.  The Adel exchange, which supports a significant area of Leeds, including the southern end of Bramhope, had already been enabled.  New cabinets were installed in the village to provide better connections to both the Arthington and Adel exchanges, and from June 2014 Bramhope residents were able to apply for faster broadband, usually in the 15-20 mbps download range.  Takeup was fast and it soon became apparent that there was insufficient capacity to meet demand.  This was escalated to SFWY/BT and as a result the Arthington connected cabinets were upgraded to provide more capacity in July 2015 and the Adel connected cabinets in April 2016.  Since then there have been no reports of suppliers rejecting requests for faster broadband.

## The Trees / Leeds Road / Kings Road

remains a black spot with approximately 400 houses limited to a maximum 3 mbps download speed. There are significant technical issues as many of these houses have "exchange only" lines, copper wires directly connected to the Adel exchange.  SFWY were open to including this significant number of dwellings in Phase 2 of the SFWY deployment but
a) Phase 2 delayed by almost 3 months because of uncertainties over funding after the Brexit vote (the bulk of the funding is from the EU's European Regional Development Funding)
b) a government initiative to promote competition in the broadband arena enabled a local supplier, AQL, to claim The Trees / Leeds Road / Kings Road post codes as their territory.  Some months elapsed before SFWY could get these postcodes reclassified as within Phase 2.

SFWY then gave an outline implementation date of 3Q 2019.  The Parish Council applied to BT for a Community Fibre Partnership as a means of improving this date but it became clear that this was not a viable option.  Funding of around £25,000 was required (and the DCMS insist that state aid rule prevent a parish council spending money in this way), and even if this money could be raised, the earliest implementation date would have been at the end of 2018.

The recent meeting with SFWY and BT has confirmed that this area is firmly within the SFWY plan and should go live in September 2019 (subject to no unforeseen technical issues or problems with power supplies, or wayleaves.)  A technical solution has been developed to address the mix of antique connections such as exchange only lines.  A new All-in-One cabinet, connected by fibre to Adel, will be installed on Kings Road.  Some properties in The Trees will be connected to the existing PCP13 cabinet.  Many of the houses in this area will be connected Fibre To The Premises (FTTP) so enabling superfast broadband.

## LS 18 5HZ St Helena's Caravan Park and adjacent farms

- will be connected -FTTP – June 2019

## Carlton / East Carlton

- East Carlton village is on the plan for March 2020 as an FTTP solution
- Other locations in Carlton are connected to different exchanges/cabinets including Rawdon, Otley and Guiseley..  It may be already be possible to get faster broadband. Best advice is to check on availability using a range of checking tools.

## Online Availability Checkers

There are several availability checkers.  A page on the SFWY website lists several of them

https://www.superfastwestyorkshire.co.uk/resources/broadband-types

There have been instances where suppliers have said that faster broadband is available based on postcode.  You are advised to use the Ofcom coverage site to check.  The speeds are at times optimistic, but the detailed map is accurate.  There may be a slight time lag in updates by Ofcom.

**https://checker.ofcom.org.uk/broadband-coverage**

## DCMS Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme

Introduced in March 2018, Gigabit vouchers can be used by small businesses and the local communities surrounding them to contribute to the installation cost of a gigabit capable fibre connection. Businesses can claim up to £3,000 against the cost of connection.  Home based businesses are eligible.

Unlike previous DCMS voucher schemes, once you have identified a registered supplier and signed up with them, the administrative work and progressing the application is supposed to lie with the supplier rather than the applicant.

**https://gigabitvoucher.culture.gov.uk/**

**Councillor John Howard**

17 August 2018