

Broadband Update 8th July 2014

This is the first news update on the subject of broadband and proposed improvements to the service available to the village. There will be further updates when the situation changes.

Village Survey

I was asked in by the Parish Council in April to undertake a survey of broadband speeds currently available in the village. The survey was launched in April with a closing date of 31st May 2014. A total of 22 households responded to the survey.

The average speeds recorded in this survey were as follows:

- **Download: 5.35 Megabits per second (Mb/s)**
- **Upload: 0.39 Mb/s**

It should be realised that this is a simple straw poll; no attempt was made to test the speeds at specific times of day. One respondent provided this data:

- Daytime: Download 6.8 Mb/s, Upload 0.94 Mb/s
- Typical evening: Download 2.6 Mb/s, Upload 0.3 Mb/s
- Worst case evening: Download 1.1 Mb/s, Upload 0.08 Mb/s

This clearly shows the potential variability. For those people who rely on broadband speeds for work during office hours, download speeds in excess of 6mb seem to be typically available, with 11 of the 22 respondents exceeding this figure. It is known that Medbourne fares much better than surrounding villages due to its proximity to the exchange. However, households with speeds much below the village average can use this evidence to seek improvements from their supplier.

Update from BT

You will be aware from previous communications that Leicestershire County Council and BT have accelerated the roll-out of fibre optic broadband to Medbourne. I have established contact with the BT Project Manager who is overseeing the roll-out and tabled a list of questions on behalf of the village. The response from BT is that the only plan that's definite at this stage is to do the detailed survey and design work in the remainder of 2014; only once this is complete will it be possible to answer more detailed questions, including the availability date. However, we are expecting roll-out during 2015.

The important thing is that we are now in direct contact with the supplier and should be in the loop to receive news as it develops. I will continue to post news and information on the Village web site and via email and Twitter as we get updates. If you have friends who would be interested in regular updates on broadband please ask them to sign up for emails via the Village web site.

Welland Valley Broadband Group

You will probably be aware of the Welland Valley Broadband Group (WVBG) as it has been active in trying to improve the lot of local villages with respect to earlier roll-out of fast broadband. In particular, they have been conducting a vocal campaign in the local press.

Until recently, Paul Polito was a member of the group on behalf of the village. Owing to the technical nature of much of the communication, Paul passed this baton to me a few weeks ago. I then undertook a detailed review of their documentation which left me with some reservations about the direction being taken. WVBG has not been receptive to our concerns and that, combined with the fact that Medbourne is no longer in the slow lane, has led to us parting company with WVBG.

A full briefing was given to the Parish Council on 7th July where a larger-than-usual audience of residents was also in attendance. Given no dissent from any of those at the meeting, our plan is to continue to liaise directly with Leicestershire County Council and BT as a separate village, not connected to WVBG.

David Tuffs

Information Resources Advisor to Medbourne Parish Council

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