



PRESS RELEASE: 2nd December 2014

Rural villages in Harborough District to get the fastest broadband in the UK!

Welland Valley Broadband Group are campaigning for Fast, Reliable and Affordable broadband for all of the residents in our local communities. Many of our parishioners have current broadband speeds of under 1Mbps, which is severely constraining both business and pleasure.

Our goal has moved a step closer with the intention by Gigaclear, a rural 'Fibre to the Property' [FTTP] broadband company to deploy their SuperFast Fibre network technology to the Leicestershire villages of Blaston, Bringham, Cranoe, Drayton, Hallaton, Horninghold, Nevill Holt, Medbourne, Slawston and Stockerston. Additionally planning is also underway to extend the technology to Glooston, Stonton Wyville and Welham subject to sufficient demand.

Gigaclear has undertaken an exercise to establish the level of interest for their broadband system. There was an overwhelming response from our communities desperate for fast broadband and within a record time of only three weeks Gigaclear have received interest from well over 30% of residents. This process often takes 6 months or more.

Gigaclear are now taking orders for their 'Fibre to the Property' up to 1,000Mbps broadband system which will provide a leap into the 21st Century for residents currently suffering on very slow, unreliable broadband over the old and deteriorating copper telephone wires.

Services such as TV video streaming, Netflix and Skype will at last be possible, plus TV using Ultra High Definition as it arrives over the coming year. This ensures a truly future-proof solution for our residents, unlike most systems currently being installed which make use of the existing sixty five year old copper telephone network with its maintenance headaches. These copper based systems will inevitably limit the ability to keep up with residential and business broadband needs in future.

Gigaclear provides the fastest commercial broadband system available in the UK with speeds up to 1,000Mbps for data download and upload. Subject to the level of initial orders residents will start to be connected to the system in late Spring 2015 with every property connected by mid-year. Most of the villages in the Welland Valley are currently excluded from the Leicestershire County Council Superfast Extension programme, so without Gigaclear many would be seeing no improvement in broadband speeds for possibly another five years.

Gigaclear is planning to make a multi-million pound investment in our communities and are seeking firm commitments prior to laying the fibre cable. We would urge all our residents to review the product that Gigaclear is offering and sign up www.gigaclear.com

Press Release Background Information:

Welland Valley Broadband Group:

Our objective is to ensure ALL residents and businesses in the rural group can be provided with fast, affordable and reliable broadband. The Government's stated aim in their UK Digital Strategy is to '**ensure that people are not left living in the 'digital slow lane' simply because of their post code.**' We seek to ensure our residents are not left in the digital slow lane due to their Post Code.

The WVBG includes the Parishes of:

In Leicestershire: Blaston, Slawston, Horninghold, Stockerston, East Norton, Glooston, Drayton, Stonton Wyville, Tur Langton, Cranoe, Goadby, Welham and Hallaton.

In Northamptonshire: Ashley, Weston by Welland, Sutton Bassett, Stoke Albany, Dingley and Brampton Ash.



Photos of residents in Hallaton alongside a Gigaclear banner.