

Fibre Update

12th September 2022

Cllr Paul Stevens

100 households responded to the scheme, out of roughly 680 precept payers (that number excludes Oakfield that has fibre already).

It was clear from responses that speeds vary significantly across postcodes, even for the same provider/package, which may have something to do with proximity to cabinets etc.

The general environment is not encouraging:

- Openreach has still suspended new applications
- East Sussex is 'in procurement' with the Department of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, which impacts general funding under the national fibre rollout plan, and the decision process could take between 3 and 15 months apparently
- There has been a general vacuum at national level given uncertainty over the new PM, which culminated today in the announcement that the relevant minister at the Department of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport is stepping down

The partnership is looking at ways of increasing the 100 respondents to a more compelling number by a doorstep campaign or similar, but that probably won't be immediately given the absence of some of the team (me included).

A request for support at county level has been sent to Sarah Osborne.

The Beresford Lane residents initiative was approved, but with insufficient time to secure committed funding and so is currently also not going ahead.