

**'The Meon Valley – Our Digital Future' Update (December 4<sup>th</sup> 2016)**  
**Following meeting in Meonstoke on 8<sup>th</sup> November**  
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**PERSONAL NOTE FROM PETER O'SULLIVAN**

*I HAVE NO FINANCIAL, OR OTHER VESTED, INTEREST IN THE SOLUTIONS OR BUSINESSES REFERRED TO IN THIS UPDATE; NEITHER AM I QUALIFIED TO COMMENT ON THE APPROPRIATENESS OF THE SOLUTIONS TO WHICH THE UPDATE REFERS.*

**THIS DOCUMENT UPDATES, ADDS TO, & SUPERSEDES AN EARLIER ONE - CONTENT**

- Introduction – The Meon Valley, Our Digital Future
- An overview of the meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> November; to be enhanced soon by video of the presentations
- Superfast Broadband - Hampshire County / BT (BDUK) plan for our villages
- TEK185 (a local Droxford business) plan to roll-out 'lightning fast' broadband to our village
- 4G Broadband: A 30+ Mbps solution using 4G mobile signal
- Investment funding briefing for tech, or tech-enabled businesses – Monday December 19<sup>th</sup>
- Hampshire Police guidance on how to protect against Cyber-Crime

**INTRODUCTION – THE MEON VALLEY, OUR DIGITAL FUTURE**

Ninety people from local businesses and villages met on November 8<sup>th</sup> 2016 with representatives of Hampshire County Council, Winchester City Council and the South Downs National Park Authority; and with representatives from BT. We were also joined by thought-leaders in the digital agenda.

The community representation was largely from the villages served by the Droxford telephone exchange, namely Droxford, Brockbridge, Meonstoke, Corhampton and Exton. At the meeting, we learned that parts of Soberton are also served by the Droxford Exchange. The Hampshire/BT BDUK (Broadband Delivery UK) programme update below is relevant to all premises (residential and business) served by the Droxford exchange.

This updates, supersedes, and replaces, the one I distributed a week ago; and also the article I wrote immediately after the meeting which is published in the Meon Benefice 'Bridge' magazine for December and January; the latter is delivered to the 600+ premises in the villages of Droxford, Brockbridge, Meonstoke, Corhampton & Exton

The plans and opportunities described in this document is relevant to residents and businesses in the above villages; and to residents and businesses in other villages in, or close to, the Meon Valley.

I am asking the Parish Councils of Soberton & Newtown, Droxford, and Corhampton & Meonstoke, to make it available via their websites. It will also be added to the Meon Valley News & Views Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/themeonvalley](http://www.facebook.com/themeonvalley))

I am also sending it to the e-mailing list of participants, and others who were not able to participate, in the meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> November - residents, business representatives, guests, presenters and local authority//political representatives. Please share it with others. If anybody wishes to be removed, or added to the mailing list, please let me know.

If you would like more information or clarification, and cannot get it elsewhere, you could try me; I probably know somebody who could help you

**END OF INTRODUCTION**

## AN OVERVIEW OF THE MEETING ON 8<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2016

To be enhanced soon by video of the presentations

### Welcome & Introduction

- Hampshire Meon Valley division councillor Roger Huxstep & Peter O'Sullivan

### Current issues & disappointment

- Steve Clarke and Mike Peagram (residents and business owners) shared the angst and disappointment that we are all experiencing as a result of the frequent change in plans to deliver superfast broadband through the Hampshire BDUK (Broadband UK) programme; and from the ongoing uncertainty about the plan for our villages.
- The BDUK leads for Hampshire (Glenn Peacey, Hampshire County Council, and Grant Munn, BT) presented the BDUK status and plan.
- This was followed by a lengthy question and answer session. This, and the preceding presentation, appeared to be appreciated by the participants
- Stacey King (BT's southern region partnership executive) and Rob Humby (Hampshire County Council) committed to improved communication between the BDUK team and the community.
- Nick Fletcher, (Droxford resident) responded on behalf of our communities to thank the speakers and senior representatives, and to ask for a more transparent, proactive and collaborative way of working.

### 'Our Digital Future'

The above focus on our current issues and disappointment, was followed by presentations looking forward. The extended time given to the above meant that I had to curtail the time available to the second part of the meeting. It was also very late. However, few participants left, and the feedback I have received would indicate that the 'looking forward' section was greatly appreciated and that it was a pity that we could not give more time to it. Again, the learning from this will be helped by videos of the presentations which will be available soon.

These were the presentations delivered with super/lighting fast speed:

- **Alternative Broadband Solutions**, presented by Rob Kirwan, owner/director of IT Pursuit, a company engaging the community broadband agenda in rural Leicestershire and Rutland; and a friend/associate of Peter O'Sullivan
- **Hampshire County Council's Digital Business Growth Strategy**, presented by Stuart Fenton, the Council's lead for digital business growth
- **Digital Future of the Meon Valley**, presented by Chris Cooper, chair of Digital South Action Group

In the interest of the need to give time to the 'issues/disappointment' agenda I stood down the following presentations

- **Creating Community Utilities** – would have been presented by Alex Templeton, founder of the Community Infrastructure Group
- **Parish Councils and their Statutory Authorities** – would have been presented by Stephen Lugg, chief executive of the Hampshire Association of Local Councils

### Meeting closure

Robert Mocatta, board member of the South Downs National Park Authority, closed the meeting. Robert, in his day time job, is an investment banker in the telecoms sector; and he champions the rural broadband agenda at the SDNPA.

## END OF MEETING OVERVIEW

PLAN INFORMATION / UPDATES / OPPORTUNITIES NOW FOLLOW

## **SUPERFAST BROADBAND - HAMPSHIRE COUNTY / BT (BDUK) PLAN FOR OUR VILLAGES**

Following the meeting, Alexandra Paton of Hampshire County Council, provided the following overview of the plan for the villages served by the Droxford exchange - Droxford, Corhampton, Meonstoke, Brockbridge, Exton and parts of Soberton. Alexandra also encouraged us to check the status for our post codes, and confirm our interest via the Hampshire Superfast Broadband website -

[www.hampshiresuperfastbroadband.com](http://www.hampshiresuperfastbroadband.com)

Improvement of broadband is a priority for the County Council. We are investing a total of £28.4m of public funds to increase coverage from 80% to over 95% of premises across Hampshire. BT's & Virgin's commercially funded rollout of superfast broadband will reach around 80% of premises. Hampshire's Superfast Broadband Programme extended coverage to 90% at the end of 2015. Our plan is to reach more than 95% by September 2018.; this will include most of the premises served by the Droxford exchange.

Most premises currently served by the Droxford exchange will be upgraded as part of the '**Hampshire Wave 2: 2016-2018**' phase of the programme. These premises will be able to receive superfast broadband by the end of 2017. This will be enabled by the installation of new **Fibre To The Cabinet (FTTC)** broadband cable. Eight such cabinets are planned for the Droxford exchange area. The broadband service will be delivered from these cabinets to premises via the existing copper and aluminium cable.

Those who choose to upgrade to the superfast broadband service, will do so by buying the service from their existing provider (such as. BT or Sky) or others whose details will be available via internet searches.

Properties located within 1200m of the new cabinets will benefit from speeds up to 80Mbps (superfast broadband is a minimum of 24 Mbps). Beyond 1200m the speeds received will decrease. Those properties located some distance from the cabinets, such as 2km or further will not receive superfast speeds. Those located just beyond the 1200m mark should see good improvements in their speeds and beyond this point there will be speed degradation. This upgrade will be enabled by the installation of the eight new broadband cabinets referred to above; to be located where they will serve the largest number of premises.

The BDUK superfast broadband upgrade will not be available to all premises. The exact plans for the locations of cabinets and ducting have not yet been finalised and we are not in a position to provide any more detailed information at this stage, other than the planned postcode coverage areas which can be seen on the maps via the website. We do know that the hamlet of Brockbridge, and parts of some post code addresses in other villages, will not be included in the upgrade.

Many premises in the area served by the Droxford exchange area are served directly from the exchange with "*Exchange Only lines*" (EOL); these are mostly in, or close to Droxford and Soberton; a few are in Meonstoke and Corhampton. In order to bring superfast broadband to these premises, BT must install a new copper cabinet and new fibre cabinet, and connect each premise individually. This upgrade is more complex and expensive than **Fibre To The Cabinet (FTTC)**. (see

[www.hampshiresuperfastbroadband.com/about-the-project/the-big-build](http://www.hampshiresuperfastbroadband.com/about-the-project/the-big-build).)

### **ANNOTATION FROM PETER O'SULLIVAN**

THE BDUK TEAM HAS NOT ANSWERED A REQUEST FROM ME TO EXPLAIN THE IMPLICATIONS OF OWNING AN EOL CONNECTION TO THE DROXFORD EXCHANGE (SEE ABOVE PARAGRAPH).

I HAVE HOWEVER RESEARCHED, AND FOUND A WAY OF FINDING OUT WHETHER YOUR PREMISE USES AN EOL CONNECTION TO THE DROXFORD EXCHANGE.

#### **DO I HAVE AN EXCHANGE ONLY LINE (EOL)?**

- LINK TO [www.btwholesale.com/adschecker](http://www.btwholesale.com/adschecker)
- ENTER YOUR FULL PHONE NUMBER (INCLUDING 01489)
- YOU WILL BE PRESENTED WITH INFORMATION ON YOUR CURRENT BROADBAND AVAILABILITY
- ABOVE THE TABLE HEADED 'ADSL PRODUCTS' YOU WILL SEE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS

#### **EITHER:**

"TELEPHONE NUMBER 01489XXXXXX ON EXCHANGE DROXFORD IS SERVED BY CABINET X"

**IN THIS CASE YOU ARE SERVED BY A CABINET & DO NOT HAVE AN EXCHANGE ONLY LINE (EOL)**

OR

"TELEPHONE NUMBER 01489XXXXXX ON EXCHANGE DROXFORD" (no reference to a cabinet)

**IN THIS CASE YOU DO HAVE AN EXCHANGE ONLY LINE (EOL) DIRECTLY FROM THE EXCHANGE**

**END OF PETER O'SULLIVAN'S ANNOTATION**

## (CONTINUATION OF THE HAMPSHIRE BDUK PLAN UPDATE...)

Also some premises may be too far from the new cabinets to benefit from the upgrades and these premises fall into the final 5% for which we do not have plans to offer connection to superfast broadband.

You can check the outlook for your business or residence on the Hampshire BDUK website - <http://www.hampshiresuperfastbroadband.com/>; click on the BLUE '*Hampshire Wave 2: 2016-2018*' legend (in the table of legends towards the top right of the map).

If you then enlarge the map (using the magnifying glass towards the left of the map) and move the map so that our villages are in the centre, you will see what areas are included in the wave 2 upgrade shaded in blue.

If you enter your postcode in the green postcode finder, you will see the outlook for your road.

It is, however, not possible to know which premises will fall into the final 5%, and outside of the upgrade plan, until all upgrades have been completed.

## END OF HAMPSHIRE BDUK PLAN UPDATE

### TEK185 PLAN TO ROLL-OUT 'LIGHTNING FAST' BROADBAND TO OUR VILLAGES

We also met, as participants at the meeting, Andy Scott and Bruce Martin the founding directors of TEK185, a Droxford based technology services company. Andy and Bruce have set out here the TEK185 plan to roll out a wireless solution to the villages served by the Droxford exchange.

#### TEK185 PLAN OVERVIEW

The need for reliable and fast broadband in the Meon Valley villages has been on the agenda of many businesses, community organisations and residential discussions for some years.

Here at **TEK185 and Meon Valley Internet** we aim to change the future of Broadband and connecting to the internet, which is a very frustrating subject among many of us who live, work and play in the Meon Valley villages.

**OUR PLAN.** Last month we joined other local businesses, community organisations and residents at the '**Meon Valley – Our Digital Future**' meeting. This meeting confirmed that our plans to deliver Lightning Fast broadband via a fixed Wireless solution, would address both a long overdue need for fast broadband, and contribute to Hampshire County Council's strategy for the growth of our digital business sector.

Our lightning fast service will be delivered by Microwave from high buildings and masts around the Meon Valley. Microwave is an established, reliable and high speed solution delivering broadband to premises in rural communities which are not able to receive this service via fibre optic cable. A number of local businesses and residents are already benefiting from such a service.

Our solution is not dependent on copper or aluminium cable to deliver broadband from fibre cabinets to premises. However, we learned at the meeting that this existing cable will continue to be in use after fibre optic cable is used to deliver the BDUK broadband upgrade via fibre optic cable to the new cabinets.

We have been meeting with representatives of the local community (residents and businesses) and gathering data about the local area, running topology maps, testing signal strengths and looking for suitable broadcast points for our Microwave links.

We are developing a plan which will be released on our website very shortly;  
[www.tek185.com/meonvalley-plan](http://www.tek185.com/meonvalley-plan)

We are happy to tell you that we have six broadcast points on which we are focusing. These will deliver Microwave broadband to receivers installed on premises. We will be offering up to 200Mbps internet connections to residential properties and up to 300Mbps to business premises.

Over the next few months, we aim to start delivering our Lightning Fast internet to Droxford, and then to the other villages served by the Droxford telephone exchange – Meonstoke, Corhampton, Exton, Brockbridge and Soberton

We will be running a pilot scheme in the next few weeks to test our Lightning Fast Internet solution to a handful of selected premises. If you are interested in getting involved in the pilot, please email [meonvalley@tek185.com](mailto:meonvalley@tek185.com) with the subject line "Pilot Scheme"

## **WHO ARE 'TEK185 & MEON VALLEY INTERNET'?**

We are a local business located in St Clair's Farm, Droxford, which will be our centre of operations from where we will deliver the Microwave infrastructure and broadband service; we will be the provider and manager of the service bought by local businesses and residents.

We are specialists in the delivery of High-Speed Microwave infrastructures and other cloud-based technology services, Telecommunications, Infrastructure in the Cloud and Virtual servers.

If you would like to register an interest in knowing more about our plans, what our service will cost, and when you will be able to receive it, please email [meonvalley@tek185.com](mailto:meonvalley@tek185.com)

We look forward to hearing from you

**Andrew Scott & Bruce Martin**

TEK185 Ltd and Meon Valley Internet Ltd

St Clair's Farm, Droxford / Tel: 02380006666

## **END OF TEK185 PLAN UPDATE**

### **4G BROADBAND: A 30+ MBPS SOLUTION USING 4G MOBILE SIGNAL**

One of our tech-entrepreneurial couples attended the meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> November and then created their own solution; using 4G mobile signal from Vodafone. They live on the edge of Meonstoke, in a home which is one of the furthest away from the Droxford Exchange. This is their story

Another potential way to get higher speed broadband (available now) in our villages is to use the 4G mobile phone network. Having suffered from 1.5MB download speeds on the landline, and despite NOT having 4G on our mobile phones at home, we now have a 4G router delivering about 35MB download and 15MB upload speeds.

To achieve this, you will need a 4G-enabled router. This is similar to the routers you use for broadband over the telephone line. You need one that uses the 4G mobile telephone network instead. The router we have purchased is an ASUS 4G-AC55U LITE MODEM 802.11AC GB ROUTER. This also allows us to retain our current limited BT broadband.

To use the router, you need to check the 4G coverage offered by mobile carriers (Vodafone, O2, EE etc.) for your address. Each provider will probably have a postcode checker for 4G coverage on its website.

Our experience is that even a weak signal which cannot be seen by a mobile phone is usable by the type of router we are now using; but you do need to test this.

You should then check (and monitor) your planned data usage; and then check the data bundle/charges.

You then need a 4G-enabled data SIM card from your selected mobile carrier. This can be a PAY-AS-YOU-GO or PAY-MONTHLY contracted sim-only service; it is inserted into a slot in the router.

Once the router is setup and running you can connect to it from your laptop or other devices over WiFi/Ethernet just as you do with any other type of router.

## **END OF 4G BROADBAND SOLUTION BRIEF**

### **INVESTMENT FUNDING BRIEFING FOR TECH, OR TECH-ENABLED BUSINESSES – DEC 19<sup>th</sup>**

Chris Cooper, chair of Digital Action Group South, who spoke at the meeting in Meonstoke on 8<sup>th</sup> November, encourages local tech (or tech-enabled) businesses to consider this opportunity offered by the regional Local Enterprise Partnership - **ENTERPRISE M3 LEP**

*"ENTERPRISE M3 Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) drives the economic growth of the area by working with businesses, key delivery partners and central government. We translate and signpost opportunities for business and other partners including funding. We bring people, business, public and not-for-profit sectors together and share our insights and data. We do all this to make Enterprise M3 'the' place to do business"*



**ENTERPRISE M3** is pleased to announce that further ERDF (European Regional Development Fund) funding will shortly become available; to support the following:

- Access to Finance (worth £500k)
- Digital, supporting SMEs embracing new technologies & superfast broadband uptake (worth £1.2m)
- 5G technologies and development of new products (worth £4M)

We are holding an event to give more information and advice on

**Monday 19th December from 2pm – 4.30pm**  
**at Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council**  
**Civic Office, London Road, Basingstoke, RG21 4AH**

**Registration (free):** [www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/erdf-specification-launch-event-tickets-29814343504](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/erdf-specification-launch-event-tickets-29814343504)

At this event we will give further details on the specifications, explain the application process and offer one- to-one advice sessions for potential Lead applicants. If you require further details on the event, please email: [jennie.pell@enterprisem3.org.uk](mailto:jennie.pell@enterprisem3.org.uk)

We look forward to seeing you there,

Kathy Vuillaume, ESIF Programme Manager, ENTERPRISE M3 LEP.

**END OF ENTERPRISE M3 BRIEF / INVITE**

### **HAMPSHIRE POLICE GUIDANCE ON HOW TO PROTECT AGAINST CYBER-CRIME**

The police high-tech cyber-crime unit was invited to the meeting in Meonstoke on 8<sup>th</sup> November. The invite was triggered by a number of local people asking whether we would become more exposed to cyber-crime when we use faster broadband. And after the meeting a related question was asked about whether any of the solutions were more-or-less vulnerable to cyber-attack.

The high-tech cyber-crime unit was not able to accept the invitation; they subsequently offered the following advice.

1. Residents and businesses using the internet (regardless how slow or fast, or from whatever solution or provider) should take control of their own security.
2. You should follow the guidance set out on the '**Get safe Online**' website [www.getsafeonline.org](http://www.getsafeonline.org)  
This website offers advice on:
  - Protecting your computer, yourself, your smartphones and tablets,
  - Preventing cyber-crime when you are shopping, banking or making payments
  - Safeguarding children
  - Social networking
  - Protecting your business

This advice will also now be included in briefs sent from Hampshire Police to our local neighbourhood watch coordinators.

**END OF HAMPSHIRE POLICE GUIDANCE ON CYBER CRIME**

**END OF THIS UPDATE FROM PETER O'SULLIVAN**