

The Meon Valley – Our Digital Future
Update on broadband plans for our villages
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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.

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

We shared with our guests 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.

Stacey King (BT’s southern region partnership executive) and Rob Humby (Hampshire County Council) agreed that improved communication was needed.

This update summarises plans provided to me by the Hampshire BDUK team and by TEK185, a Droxford based technology services business.

In addition to this update I plan to make available films of, and interviews with, the speakers and audience at the meeting on November 8th

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

Peter O’Sullivan

UPDATES NOW FOLLOW

OVERVIEW OF THE HAMPSHIRE BDUK PLAN TO ROLL-OUT SUPERFAST BROADBAND TO THE AREA SERVED BY THE DROXFORD EXCHANGE

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

BDUK Upgrade Plan

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. Those which are upgraded and choose to buy the service (from a choice of a number of broadband service providers) will benefit from speeds up to 80Mbps; the speed will degrade for premises more than 1200 metres from the new cabinets; but should not be less than what is defined as 'superfast' broadband, namely 24Mbps

This upgrade will be enabled by the installation of eight new broadband cabinets across the Droxford exchange area at locations that will serve the largest number of premises.

The BDUK superfast broadband upgrade will not be available to all premises e.g. Brockbridge and parts of some post code addresses in other villages will not be included.

Many premises in the Droxford area are served directly from the exchange with "Exchange Only lines". 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).

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 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

The meeting on 8th November also received presentations on alternative broadband solutions, on Hampshire's digital business growth strategy, and on benefits of a 'digitally-enabled' future

Guest speaker Rob Kirwan (director of IT Pursuit) gave an overview of the alternative solutions, their risks and benefits; based on solutions he has studied and which he is rolling out in rural Leicestershire and Rutland.

Rob introduced wireless broadband as one such solution.

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

DROXFORD BASED 'TEK185 AND MEON VALLEY INTERNET' TO OFFER LIGHTNING FAST INTERNET

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

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 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

We look forward to hearing from you

Andrew Scott & Bruce Martin

TEK185 Ltd and Meon Valley Internet Ltd

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END OF TEK185 PLAN UPDATE

END OF PETER O'SULLIVAN'S UPDATE