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## GOOD NEWS! - 'SUPERFAST' (& OTHER) BROADBAND IS COMING TO OUR VILLAGES

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### 1. THE GOOD NEWS (WITH A HEALTH WARNING)

After waiting for more than five years the villages of Droxford, Meonstoke, Corhampton and Exton will soon be offered broadband at download speeds which are significantly greater than the current service, which can be as slow as 2 mega-bits per second (Mbps) download (Unless I state differently, the speeds I quote in Mbps are download speeds).

The broadband solutions to which this newsletter refers includes two BT/Openreach fibre solutions, a 'Fixed Wireless' solution from Meon Valley Internet, and Vodafone's '4G Home Broadband' solution.

Some of these solutions are already available to some of us. I am writing now because the roll-out of the BT/Openreach solutions is starting from October 2017 and will run into early 2018; and I am taking the opportunity to introduce (or update you) on the two alternative solutions.

I am writing to residents, businesses, and community organisations on my mailing list; if you do not want to be included in future updates, please let me know.

On the other hand, if you have neighbours or friends who might be interested in being kept up-to-date please send them this newsletter with an option of them requesting to be added to my mailing list for future updates; and if you have your own mailing list, Facebook page or some other means of letting people know, please use these if appropriate.

The story and options are quite complex; so if you are able to help others understand their options, this would be very good.

One point to make is that whilst most of the properties in our villages will have the opportunity soon, to access broadband speeds significantly greater than we currently have, individuals are free to choose whether or not they wish to benefit from this, and whether they wish to enter into contracts with broadband companies to provide the upgraded service.

If you choose to do nothing you will continue to receive your current speed of broadband.

### HEALTH WARNING

It has not been, and is still, not easy to be confident in the information about broadband plans. I cannot guarantee that I have got it right; this is why I often state 'may happen' rather than 'will happen'. Hopefully the guidance I am offering, in the next section (section 2, page 2) on how to find out whether a particular property is able to benefit from one or more of the upgrade solutions will give you the information you need to understand, and track, your options as they develop and become available.

I do not have any vested interest in any of the solutions that we are being offered, or of the organisations that are offering them; I also do not have in-depth expertise in their solutions. I know there are some who will read this newsletter who have greater expertise than me; please contact me with your insights, suggestions and corrections. I am not planning to advise individuals, who may have more than one option, or no option, on what decision you should make; but if you think you are not getting clarity of your options, you can try me.

## **2. HOW TO FIND OUT WHETHER & WHEN, YOU MAY BE OFFERED FASTER BROADBAND**

The following sections introduce the four solutions to which I refer in this newsletter; if you simply want to fast-track to 'what does it mean for me' this is how you do it

### **BT/OPENREACH'S 'SUPERFAST' FIBRE SOLUTIONS (FTTC & FTTP)**

These are planned to roll-out to most (not all) properties starting in October 2017. This is how to find out if, when & how you will be offered one of these solutions.

- **Register interest at Hampshire BDUK** - [www.hampshiresuperfastbroadband.com](http://www.hampshiresuperfastbroadband.com)  
If you are not sure whether you have already done this, do it now to be sure.  
The BDUK team plan to let us know when 'superfast' is available to those who have registered.
- **You can also track progress on Openreach's website which some of us find easier to use.**  
[www.homeandwork.openreach.co.uk/when-can-i-get-fibre.aspx](http://www.homeandwork.openreach.co.uk/when-can-i-get-fibre.aspx)  
The end-point of the journey to which this site refers is this: '**Superfast accepting orders**'
- **A number of broadband companies will then be able to offer 'Superfast' broadband over the Openreach fibre.** To receive it, you need to upgrade, or replace, your current broadband contract.  
So when 'superfast is accepting orders', contact your current broadband company (they may contact you) and also check Ofcom's approved price-comparison website to find & compare other companies - [www.broadbandchoices.co.uk](http://www.broadbandchoices.co.uk)  
You can get an idea, in advance, of the companies and packages that might be available when 'superfast is accepting orders' by entering this postcode into the comparison website - SO32 1AP.

### **MEON VALLEY INTERNET 'LIGHTNING QUICK' WIRELESS SOLUTION**

To find out about this solution go to <http://meonvalleyinternet.co.uk>. To ask whether & when this solution will be available to you, email [team@meonvalleyinternet.co.uk](mailto:team@meonvalleyinternet.co.uk)

### **VODAFONE'S 4G HOME BROADBAND**

To find out about this solution go to <https://airtel-vodafone.com/homebroadband>

## **3. INTRODUCING THE FOUR SOLUTIONS TO WHICH I REFER IN THIS NEWLETTER**

These are two **BT/Openreach fibre broadband** solutions, a **fixed wireless** solution (from **Meon Valley Internet**) and **Vodafone's 4G Mobile** solution

**BT/OPENREACH SOLUTIONS.** Openreach is the broadband/telephone infrastructure division of BT. It is building two 'superfast' fibre broadband solutions for our villages. These are being in partnership with Hampshire County Council through the government's BDUK (Broadband Delivery UK) programme to provide 95% (or more) of properties across the UK with 'superfast' broadband; with speeds at 24Mbps and greater; 24Mbps is the lowest speed to be qualify as 'superfast'.

Those who are offered these solutions can get up to 80Mbps, but (as explained below) some will get speeds lower than the 24 Mbps 'superfast' speed.

These are the two Openreach solutions:

- **FTTC** (Fibre to the Cabinet) and then using existing copper/aluminium from the cabinet to the property
- **FTTP** (Fibre to The Premise); not dependent on using existing copper & aluminium wire

**MEON VALLEY INTERNET (MVI)** (known to us previously as TEK185) is a local company which is developing, and beginning to deliver, a **Fixed Wireless 'lightning fast' solution**; beaming the broadband from distribution points located on towers or tall buildings to individual properties, via a receiver dish installed on the outside of the receiving building. For more information go to: <http://meonvalleyinternet.co.uk>

**VODAFONE'S 4G HOME BROADBAND** - <https://airtel-vodafone.com/homebroadband>

A small enclave of Meonstoke residents (some of whom run businesses from, or work at, home) who have no faith in being offered one of the above solutions soon, have opted for this 4G solution.

#### 4. SPEEDS THAT MAY BE ACHIEVED BY THE FOUR BROADBAND UPGRADE OPTIONS

Broadband delivered today across the Openreach telephone infrastructure to our villages can be as low as 2Mbps (mega-bits per second), download speed. *Which Magazine's* has an article to which you may wish to refer - "What broadband speed do I need?" - <http://www.which.co.uk/reviews/broadband-deals/article/what-broadband-speed-do-i-need>

The following is my understanding of the speeds that may be possible with the solutions becoming available to us

Download Broadband speeds associated with the upgrade solutions		
	Speed in Mbps	Source of speed information
Openreach FTTC <sup>1&amp;2</sup>	80 <sup>1</sup> Degraded by distance from the cabinet	Openreach
Openreach FTTP <sup>1</sup>	80 <sup>1</sup>	Openreach
Meon Valley Internet Residential	150 <sup>3</sup>	<a href="http://meonvalleyinternet.co.uk">Meon Valley Internet website http://meonvalleyinternet.co.uk</a>
Meon Valley Internet Business	200 <sup>3</sup>	
Meon Valley Internet Dedicated	1 million <sup>3</sup>	
Vodafone 4G Home Broadband	20-30	Meonstoke Residents

**Notes on this table**

- Openreach FTTC & FTTP.** The speed you will get (up to the maximum available to you) is dependent on the contract you enter into with the broadband company who will deliver the upgraded service over the Openreach fibre solution.
- Openreach FTTC.**
  - Properties are connected by existing wires to the new Openreach cabinets. Those close to the cabinets will get close to the maximum of 80Mbps. This will degrade by distance along the road/telephone poles which carry the existing wires (not 'as-the-crow-flies'); as set out in this table, which is based on information provided by Openreach.

FTTC broadband distance-speed degradation												
Table Showing impact on download speed (Equivalent impact on upload from maximum of 25 Mbps)												
Distance from cabinet / Mbps	Dist	Speed	Dist	Speed	Dist	Speed	Dist	Speed	Dist	Speed	Dist	Speed
'Superfast' = 24Mbps+	0	80	200	60	400	50	600	35	800	30	1000	24
Improved but below 'superfast'	1200	15	1500	12				<b>No improvement</b>			1800	0

  - Properties with an FTTC solution offering speeds of less than 24Mbps are not considered to be in receipt of 'superfast' broadband.
  - Not all properties close to an FTTC cabinet will be connected to that cabinet. For example there are no plans for Bucks Head Hill in Meonstoke (which is only about 50 metres from the FTTC cabinet at The Pound) to be connected to this new cabinet during the current roll-out.
- Meon Valley Internet** offers 'synchronous connection'; the upload and download speeds are the same.

#### 5. THE COVERAGE OF THE FOUR UPGRADE OPTIONS

In section 3, page 2, I referred to four upgrade solutions – two from Openreach (FTTC and FTTP), one from Meon Valley Internet (Fixed Wireless) and one from Vodafone (4G Home Broadband). The following is my understanding of their coverage.

##### OPENREACH FIBRE SOLUTIONS

Most of us will be offered one of the two Openreach fibre upgrade options, **FTTC** or **FTTP**. In the case of FTTC, the degradation caused by distance from the cabinet may mean that the 'upgrade' is less than the 'superfast' threshold of 24Mbps.

You will not have a choice of which (if any) of these two solutions you will be offered; although I think (but am not sure) that a small number of properties will be offered both FTTC and FTTP and may therefore have a choice between them

To find out if your property may be in plan to be connected to a new FTTC cabinet, or offered an FTTP solution, see section 7, page 4

**FTTC.** You will be offered this solution if Hampshire BDUK (Hampshire County Council & Openreach) has decided you will be connected to one of the new Openreach FTTC cabinets to which the new fibre cable is being connected. The connection to your property from the cabinet will be via the existing copper & aluminium wire; the speed you get will depend on your distance from the cabinet. For more information on the siting and coverage associated with the FTTC cabinets, and when the service will be available, see section 7, page 4; for more information about FTTC distance-degradation see section 4, page 3.

**FTTP.** You will be offered this solution if you are in one of the post codes to which Hampshire BDUK (Hampshire County Council & Openreach) has decided to deliver this service via Openreach fibre. In this case if you choose to contract with a service provider that offers an FTTP service, the selected provider will then commission Openreach to connect the fibre to your property. For the list of post codes which may get this service see section 7, page 4

### **MEON VALLEY INTERNET (MVI) FIXED WIRELESS SOLUTION**

This solution can be offered to properties which are in 'line of sight' of MVI distribution points; these will be situated on high buildings or on towers that will be erected by MVI. The wireless broadband is beamed from these distribution points to subscribers' properties, via a small receiving device attached to the outside of the property. MVI have a blog on its website giving an update on progress of acquiring distribution point locations. (see <http://meonvalleyinternet.co.uk/articles>)

Some residents and businesses in Droxford are already in range of, and some are already receiving, this service. See section 0 on page 2 on how to find out if, and when, this option will be available to you

### **VODAFONE'S 4G HOME BROADBAND**

This is available to any property that can receive a good Vodafone 4G mobile signal.

## **6. WHAT WILL THE UPGRADE SERVICE COST YOU?**

First of all, if you decide not to contract for an upgraded services, you will retain your current broadband package at the cost associated with it.

<b>How do I find out how much the upgraded broadband solution will cost?</b>	
<b>Solution</b>	<b>Information on cost from</b>
<b>Openreach FTTC and FTTP</b>	Ofcom's approved price-comparison website- when you know that the service is available to your property <a href="http://www.broadbandchoices.co.uk">www.broadbandchoices.co.uk</a>
<b>Meon Valley Internet Solutions</b>	<a href="http://meonvalleyinternet.co.uk">http://meonvalleyinternet.co.uk</a>
<b>Vodafone 4G Home Broadband</b>	<a href="https://airtel-vodafone.com/homebroadband">https://airtel-vodafone.com/homebroadband</a>

....continued on next page - OPENREACH FTTC & FTTP (where & when)

## 7. OPENREACH 'SUPERFAST' (FTTC & FTTP) – WHERE & WHEN (MY UNDERSTANDING)

### Openreach FTTC – Fibre to the Cabinet (copper & aluminium to the property)

Openreach has provided me with the planned locations for the four FTTC cabinets which will serve our villages; and also with information (which is not easy to interpret) on distribution points (telephone poles) by which properties will be connected to these cabinets. Openreach plans to set-up these four FTTC cabinets between October and December 2017; the service they offer will then be available early in 2018. In the case of properties connected to the new cabinet which is already located on The Pound in Meonstoke, the FTTC upgraded service may be available sooner (November 2017?)

The table on the next page sets out my understanding of the planned FTTC coverage.

Village/location	Roads that these cabinets may serve (maybe not all properties on these roads; and may be some others roads)
<b>Cabinet 3:</b> Meonstoke, School Lane from High Street to Infant School	High Street (South); Chapel lane; New Road and maybe Fry's Lane and Brockbridge Road
<b>Cabinet 4:</b> Meonstoke, 'The Pound', small public space at the junction of Pound Lane and Rectory Lane	This cabinet which is already on site may serve High Street (North), Pound Lane, (including Pound cottages and the Meon Hall), Stocks Lane Rectory Lane (part) And maybe (part of?) Fry's Lane, Allens Lane, St Andrew's Green, Warnford Road, Shavard Lane (including the Broadmead); and St Andrew's Cottage on Church Lane. It will not serve Bucks Head Hill or Church Cottage on Church lane; these are omitted from the current roll-out plan.
<b>Cabinet 5:</b> Corhampton, Warnford Road (East side and south of the village store); site of the former pubic telephone	Part of Warnford Road (some of which is getting FTTP), and maybe Millside And maybe the new development on Warnford Road It may not serve any property south of the cabinet Properties on Corhampton Lane and businesses at Corhampton Lane Farm are excluded
<b>Cabinet 6:</b> Droxford, Union Lane, opposite Park Villas	This cabinet (which may come on stream later than the other three) will serve properties (including the Droxford GP surgery) which currently have 'exchange only lines' connected to the Droxford telephone exchange You can probably find out if you are one of these by using this website and entering your phone number or address <a href="https://www.homeandbusiness.openreach.co.uk/fibre-broadband/when-can-i-get-fibre">https://www.homeandbusiness.openreach.co.uk/fibre-broadband/when-can-i-get-fibre</a> . It indicate: 'Cabinet number: - Technology: Pending - EO Line'
<p><b>Notes on this table</b>  <b>My caution in the information in this table</b>            See my 'Health Warning' in section 1, 'How to find out' in section 0, page 2, and degradation-by-distance from FTTC cabinets in section 4, page 3.  <b>New Developments</b>            I guess the owner of a new property, will have, or can apply for, a new telephone line and see what broadband is included.</p>	

....continued on next page - Openreach FTTP – Fibre to the Premise – by post code

**Openreach FTTP – Fibre to the Premise – by post code**

Openreach has told me that FTTP is being rolled out from October 2017 to the following postcodes in the villages of, Droxford, Meonstoke, Corhampton & Exton

<b>Openreach FTTP (Fibre to the Premise) Roll Out - from October 2017</b>		
<b>Village</b>	<b>Post Code</b>	<b>Name of road to which I THINK the Post Code refers</b>
Corhampton	SO32 3DA	De Port Heights
Corhampton	SO32 3ND	Warnford Road
Corhampton	SO32 3NS	Warnford Road
Droxford	SO32 3PB:	South Hill
Droxford	SO32 3PD	Midlington Road
Droxford	SO32 3PT	Swanmore Road
Droxford	SO32 3PU:	Midlington Hill
Droxford	SO32 3PW	St Clair's Farm
Droxford	SO32 3QX	Grenville House area (Hambledon Road)
Droxford	SO32 3QY	Sheardley Lane, including the Wallops Wood Farm businesses and cottages
Droxford	SO32 3PE	Cutts Arch
Exton	SO32 3NT	Shoe Lane
Exton	SO32 3LT	Beacon Hill Lane (between Shoe Lane & The White Way)
Exton	SO32 3LW	Beacon Hill Lane (between Shoe Lane & Warnford Road)
Exton	SO32 3NU	Church Lane including Exton Manor farm and its businesses
Exton	SO32 3NW	Allens Farms Lane

**END OF NEWSLETTER**

I hope this is clear and helpful  
Peter O'Sullivan