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NEARLY HERE!! - 'SUPERFAST' (& OTHER, FAST) BROADBAND IS COMING TO OUR VILLAGES

Contents of this newsletter	Page
1. <i>BEFORE WE GET GOING - Are you, or somebody you know, feeling the cold?</i>	1
2. <i>NOW THE NEWS ABOUT BROADBAND (WITH A HEALTH WARNING)</i>	1
3. <i>FAST-TRACK - HOW TO FIND OUT WHETHER & WHEN, YOU MAY BE OFFERED FASTER BROADBAND</i>	2
4. <i>INFORMATION ABOUT THE SOLUTIONS TO WHICH WE REFER IN THIS NEWSLETTER</i>	3
5. <i>WHAT BROADBAND SPEED DO I NEED?</i>	4
6. <i>SPEEDS THAT MAY BE ACHIEVED BY THE SOLUTIONS IN THIS NEWSLETTER</i>	5
7. <i>THE COVERAGE OF THE FOUR UPGRADE OPTIONS</i>	6
8. <i>WHAT WILL THE UPGRADE SERVICE COST YOU?</i>	7
9. <i>OPENREACH 'SUPERFAST' (FTTC & FTTP) – WHERE & WHEN (OUR UNDERSTANDING)</i>	7
10. <i>FINALLY, WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR ME & WHEN</i>	8

1. BEFORE WE GET GOING - Are you, or somebody you know, feeling the cold?

There is local, friendly & practical help available

Call Freephone 0800 804 8601

To connect to the Hampshire County Council 'stay warm' team

More information on Hampshire's website -

www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/adultsocialcare/coldspots



2. NOW THE NEWS ABOUT BROADBAND (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) download¹. Most (but not all) of our premises (residential, business and community) will be able, by March 2018, to receive this upgrade.

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

Some of these solutions are already available to some of us. We are writing now because the roll-out of the BT/Openreach solutions is starting THIS MONTH (DECEMBER 2017) and will run into early 2018

And we are taking the opportunity to introduce (or update you) on the alternative solutions.

We are writing to residents, businesses, and community organisations on our mailing list; if you do not want to be included in future updates, please let us 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 our mailing list for future updates; and if you have your own mailing list, Facebook page or some other means of letting people know, please distribute via these, if appropriate.

The story and options are quite complex. We know also there are some who will read this newsletter who have greater expertise than us. So if you are able to help others understand their opportunities and options, this would be very good. And please contact us with your insights, suggestions and corrections. Mick Baugh, from Corhampton, who works for IBM and has technical expertise, put his hand up after the last newsletter and offered to help. Our conversations with Openreach have reached a new level of understanding – thanks Mick.

¹ Unless we state differently, the broadband speeds we quote are download speeds.

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 opportunity, and whether they wish to enter into contracts with their current broadband providers, or others, to supply 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. We cannot guarantee that we have got it right; this is why we often state 'may' rather than 'will'. Hopefully the guidance we are offering in the next section (section 3, 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.

Also, we would like to again state, that we do not have any vested interest in any of the solutions that will be offered, or of the companies that are offering them. We also do not have in-depth expertise in their solutions.

We are 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 us.

3. FAST-TRACK - HOW TO FIND OUT WHETHER & WHEN, YOU MAY BE OFFERED FASTER BROADBAND

The following sections introduce the four solutions to which we 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 & FTTP²)

These are planned to roll-out to most (not all) properties starting in the next month, December 2017-January 2018. This is how to find out if, when & how you will be offered one of these solutions.

- **Register interest at Hampshire BDUK³ - 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 those who have registered when 'superfast' is available to them.

- **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

FTTP: If your premise is in scope to be offered superfast broadband via FTTP, the Openreach checker will probably show '*in scope*' and '*Your area is currently in our plans to be upgraded with Fibre to the Premises (FTTP)*'

FTTC (1): If your premise is in scope to be offered superfast broadband (or at least faster-than-now speeds) via the new fibre cabinet at the Pound in Meonstoke, the Openreach checker may show a status of '*connect*' and '*We're connecting power to the new fibre cabinet and joining the new fibre lines to the existing copper network.*'

FTTC (2): If your premise is in scope to be offered superfast broadband (or at least faster-than-now speeds) via the other three yet-to-be installed fibre cabinets in Droxford, Meonstoke and Corhampton, the Openreach checker may show a status of '*in scope*' and '*You're in a plan to get Superfast fibre but we haven't started work yet.*'

The end-point of the journey on the Openreach checker is this message: '*Superfast accepting orders*'
If your premise is not in the current plan to be offered either FTTP or FTTC broadband, the checker may state '*we are exploring solutions*' and '*We're working with government and industry to explore ways to bring Superfast fibre to as many people as possible but don't have a plan for your area yet.*'

² FTTP – Fibre to the Premise; FTTC – Fibre to the Cabinet; and then via existing copper/aluminium cable to the premise.

³ Hampshire BDUK is a government funded partnership between Hampshire County Council and BT/Openreach to roll out 'Superfast' broadband (at least 24Mbps) to 95% (or more) premises in Hampshire.

If you are in scope and you get, or see, a message that '*Superfast accepting orders*' a number of broadband companies will then be able to offer 'Superfast' broadband over the Openreach fibre solutions. To receive it, you need to upgrade, or replace, your current broadband contract.

So when you see that '*superfast is accepting orders*' for your property, 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

You can get an idea (in advance of '*superfast accepting orders*') of the companies and packages that might be available to you by entering the following postcode into the comparison website; this a Bishops Waltham postcode that is already offered Superfast broadband via the Openreach infrastructure - SO32 1AP.

MEON VALLEY INTERNET 'LIGHTING QUICK' WIRELESS SOLUTION

To find out about this solution, and telephone add-ons, go to <http://meonvalleyinternet.co.uk> . To ask whether & when this solution will be available to you, email team@meonvalleyinternet.co.uk

4G BROADBAND

We are aware of two telecoms companies which are offering this solution; this is how you find out more and enter into a discussion as to whether it's for you.

Vodafone: "Power-up your home with 4G Home Broadband"

<https://airtel-vodafone.com/homebroadband>

EE: 'Get superfast home broadband without a phone line'

<https://shop.ee.co.uk/family-home/home-broadband/4g-home-broadband>

4. INFORMATION ABOUT THE SOLUTIONS TO WHICH WE REFER IN THIS NEWLETTER

We refer to two **BT/Openreach fibre broadband** solutions, a **fixed wireless** solution (from **Meon Valley Internet**) and two **4G Mobile** solutions (offered by **Vodafone** and **EE**)



"**BT/Openreach** is the broadband/telephone infrastructure division of BT. It is building two 'superfast' fibre broadband solutions for our villages, working in partnership with Hampshire County Council, through the BDUK programme.

BDUK (Broadband Delivery UK) is a government funded 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 qualify as 'superfast'.

Those who are offered these solutions can get up to 330Mbps, 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 existing copper/aluminium from the cabinet to the property
- **FTTP** (Fibre to The Premise); not dependent on using existing copper & aluminium wire

FTTC offers up to 80Mbps (but see section 6, page 5 regarding distance degradation); **FTTP** up to 330 Mbps. What you actual get is also dependent on your contract with (& how much you pay) your broadband provider.



MEON VALLEY INTERNET (MVI) (known to us previously as TEK185). Andrew Scott from MVI describes the company (which he founded and runs with Bruce Martin) and its plans, as follows.

“We are a local company which has developed, and is delivering, a Wireless 'lightning fast' internet solution; beaming internet connectivity from distribution points located around the Meon Valley.

“We have been expanding our 'Lightning Quick' internet network over the past year and can now offer connections to a wide range of properties in Soberton, Droxford, Corhampton, Exton, Brockbridge, Meonstoke, Shirrell Heath, Swanmore, Waltham Chase and Shedfield.

“We are working hard to expand this network further to cater for more homes, businesses and community buildings in the surrounding area, offering internet that the entire community can take advantage of. We aim to have over 500 connections to businesses, residential and community buildings by December 2018. We also have plans to expand our solutions in to other areas creating a larger network that can service more and more.”

“We are offering up to 200mb internet connection which is both fast and price-competitive.

“We also offer phone lines via this solution with free UK Calling; this replaces other solutions in its entirety.

“We install a small dish on the outside of the receiving building to receive an internet service that we believe to be superior to anything else offered in the area.

“Our dedicated support team are in the office between 9 and 5, Monday to Friday. However we have 24/7 monitoring on our solutions and we have engineers on call 24/7 to resolve issues in the unlikely event that they occur. The team will normally be resolving issues service users have even noticed them.”

For more information go to: <http://meonvalleyinternet.co.uk>



4G BROADBAND SOLUTIONS

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 a 4G solution.



Their experience is that accessing data is expensive, but they are getting speeds greater than the 'superfast' threshold of 24Mbps. They have taken out short term contracts, waiting to see what they might get (and when) from the options above.

For more information on these options go to:

Vodafone: “Power-up your home with 4G Home Broadband“
<https://airtel-vodafone.com/homebroadband>

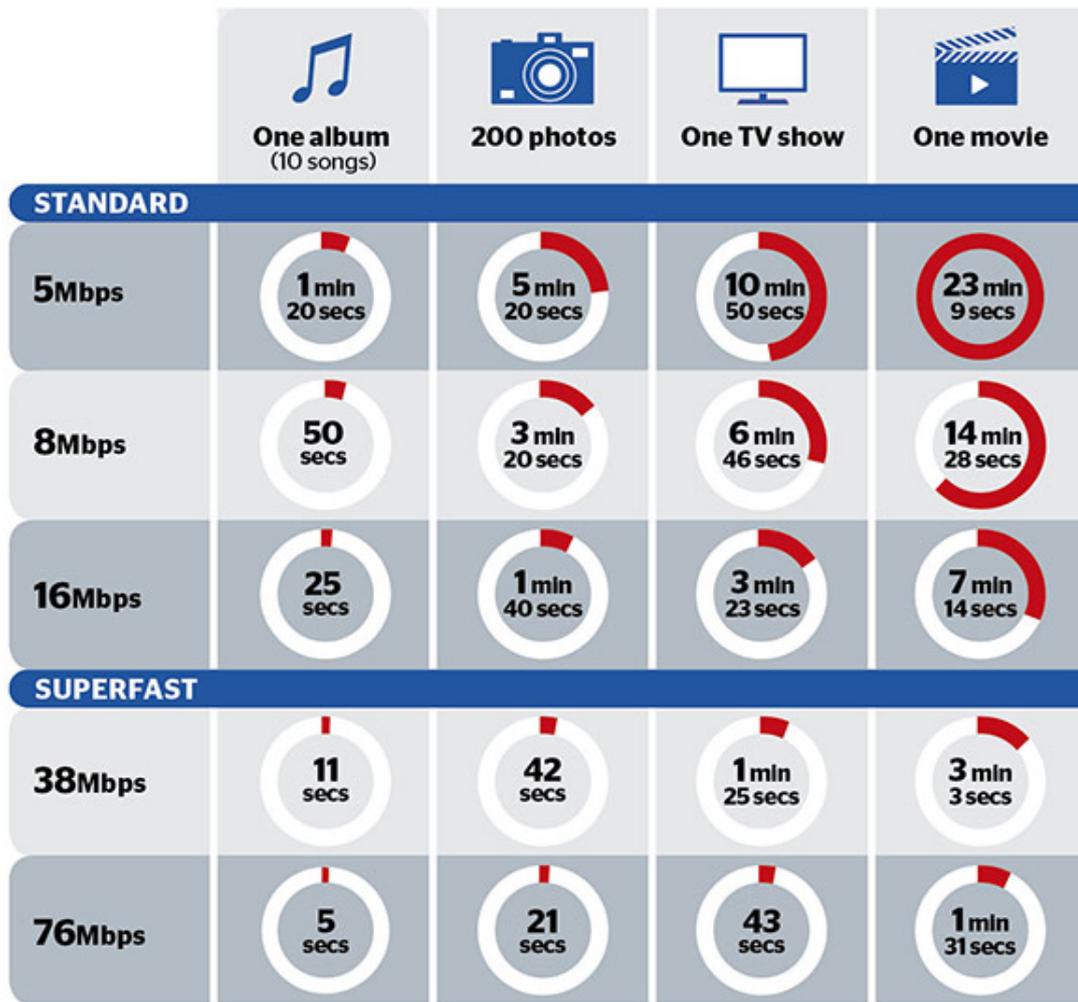
EE: ‘Get superfast home broadband without a phone line’
<https://shop.ee.co.uk/family-home/home-broadband/4g-home-broadband>

5. WHAT BROADBAND SPEED DO I NEED?

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 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>.

This article includes the table on the next page, comparing what can be achieved with varying speeds of broadband.



Based on MP3 song size of 5MB per file, photo size of 1MB per file,
TV show size of 406MB (via On Demand), movie size of 858MB (via On Demand)

6. SPEEDS THAT MAY BE ACHIEVED BY THE SOLUTIONS IN THIS NEWSLETTER

The following is our 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^{1 & 2}	Maximum 80 ¹ Degraded by distance from the cabinet	Openreach / BDUK
Openreach FTTP¹	Maximum 330 ¹	Openreach / BDUK
Meon Valley Internet Residential	Up to 150 ³	Meon Valley Internet website http://meonvalleyinternet.co.uk
Meon Valley Internet Business	Up to 200 ³	
Meon Valley Internet Dedicated	Up to 1 million ³	
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 which you contract with, to deliver the upgraded service over the Openreach fibre solution.

2. **Openreach FTTC.**

- a) Properties are connected by existing wires to the new Openreach fibre 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	No improvement				1800	0		

Properties with an FTTC solution offering speeds of less than 24Mbps are not considered to be in receipt of 'superfast' broadband.

- b) The FTTC speed can also be impacted by 'contention ratio'; i.e. how many users are sharing the data capacity on the Openreach connection, or simply it is a count of how many households are using the same main broadband line as you.
- c) 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 a few metres from the FTTC cabinet at The Pound) to be connected to this new cabinet during the current roll-out.

3. **Meon Valley Internet** offers 'synchronous connection'; the upload and download speeds are the same.

7. THE COVERAGE OF THE FOUR UPGRADE OPTIONS

The following is our understanding of the planned coverage of the solutions.

Section 3 (page 2) explains how to find out whether/when you might be in plan to receive these solutions.

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 we think (but are not sure) that a small number of properties will be offered both FTTC and FTTP and may therefore have a choice between them

We have learned that NOT all properties in the postcodes/addresses we published in the last newsletter will be offered FTTP; and may not get FTTC.

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 3 (page 2).

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 9 (page 7); for more information about FTTC distance-degradation see section 6 (page 5).

FTTP. You will be offered this solution if you are in an in-plan property 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 directly to your property. .

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 are located, (and/or planned to be located) 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. Section 4 (page 3) gives an indication of the areas where MVI currently reaches; and there is a blog on its website giving an update on progress of acquiring distribution point locations; see <http://meonvalleyinternet.co.uk/articles>

4G HOME BROADBAND (Vodafone and EE)

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

8. WHAT WILL THE UPGRADE SERVICE COST YOU?

First of all, if you decide not, or do not have the option, to contract for an upgraded service, you will retain your current broadband package (and speed) at the cost associated with it.

How do I find out how much the upgraded broadband solution will cost?	
Solution	Information on cost from
Openreach FTTC and FTTP – delivered via your selected broadband provider	Ofcom's approved price-comparison website- when you know that the service is available to your property www.broadbandchoices.co.uk
Meon Valley Internet Solutions	http://meonvalleyinternet.co.uk
4G Home Broadband: Vodafone EE	https://airtel-vodafone.com/homebroadband https://shop.ee.co.uk/family-home/home-broadband/4g-home-broadband

9. OPENREACH 'SUPERFAST' (FTTC & FTTP) – WHERE & WHEN (OUR UNDERSTANDING)

Openreach FTTC – Fibre to the Cabinet (existing copper & aluminium from the cabinet to the property)

Openreach has provided us with the planned locations for the four FTTC cabinets which will serve our villages and an indication of coverage provided from these cabinets. The Openreach plan is to set-up these four FTTC cabinets between August 2017 and February 2018. The service they offer will then be available by March 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 in December 2017/January 2018.

The following table sets out our understanding of the planned FTTC coverage.

To find out if your property may be in plan to be connected to a new FTTC cabinet see section 3 (page 2).

Village/location	Roads that these cabinets may serve (maybe not all properties on these roads; and may be some others roads)
Cabinet 4: 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 some of Fry's Lane And maybe, Allens Lane, St Andrew's Green, Warnford Road, Shavard Lane (including 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.
Cabinet 3: Meonstoke, School Lane from High Street to Infant School	High Street (South); Chapel lane; New Road, and some of Fry's Lane
Cabinet 5: Corhampton, Warnford Road, West Side, north of Corhampton Church	The precise re-siting for this cabinet is still under consideration. It will serve part of Warnford Road (some of which is getting FTTP), The Butts and maybe Millside. And maybe the new development on Warnford Road Properties on Corhampton Lane and businesses at Corhampton Lane Farm are not included.
Cabinet 6: 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 https://www.homeandbusiness.openreach.co.uk/fibre-broadband/when-can-i-get-fibre . It included it will indicate: 'Cabinet number: - Technology: Pending - EO Line'

Notes on this table**Our caution in the information in this table**

See our 'Health Warning' in section 2 (page 1), 'How to find out' in section 3 (page 2), and degradation-by-distance from FTTC cabinets in section 6 (page 5)

New Developments

We think the owner of a new property, will have, or can apply for, a new telephone line and see what broadband is included.

Openreach FTTP Coverage

Openreach has told us that FTTP is being rolled out from December 2017 to in-scope properties in our villages. However we have learned that not every property in the list of postcodes we published in the last newsletter will be included. An overview of our understanding of the FTTP in-scope properties is set out here.

Overview of FTTP & FTTC coverage

Droxford; a small number of properties in the village

Most of the other properties in the village (including the Doctor's surgery and the businesses on South Hill and the High Street) are in scope for FTTC

St Clair's and Wallops Wood business parks and Wallops Wood cottages

Meonstoke - a few properties are in scope of FTTP; most may be in scope of FTTC

Bucks Head Hill properties are **NOT** in scope of either solution, but are in negotiation with Openreach on a possible customised (and subsidised) FTTP solution; the quote for this should be available by end of December 2017.

Corhampton – quite a few of the properties along Warnford Road are in scope for FTTP; others may be in scope for FTTC

Properties on Corhampton Lane, or Corhampton hill and Corhampton Lane Farm and Business Park are **NOT** in scope for FTTP or FTTC broadband

Exton – most premises in the village are in scope for FTTP; others may be in scope for FTTC

Manor Farm cottages and some of its Business Park are in scope for FTTP

To find out if your property may be in scope for FTTP or to be connected to a new FTTC cabinet see section 3 (page 2).

What do I do if I find that our property is not included in the BDUK/Openreach plan for FTTC or FTTP?

We have been advised that at this stage there is no way of changing the plan, without delaying further the roll-out. You can consider the alternative solutions referred to in this newsletter or wait for information on future Hampshire / Openreach BDUK plans.

10. FINALLY, WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR ME & WHEN

This newsletter holds a lot of information which is both complex and still not confirmed.

We encourage you to again look at section 3 (page 2) (FAST-TRACK - HOW TO FIND OUT WHETHER & WHEN, YOU MAY BE OFFERED FASTER BROADBAND) to find out what it means for you

END OF NEWSLETTER

We hope this is helpful

Wishing you a happy Christmas (don't book too many Netflix Films!) & peaceful 2018

Peter O'Sullivan & Mick Baugh