

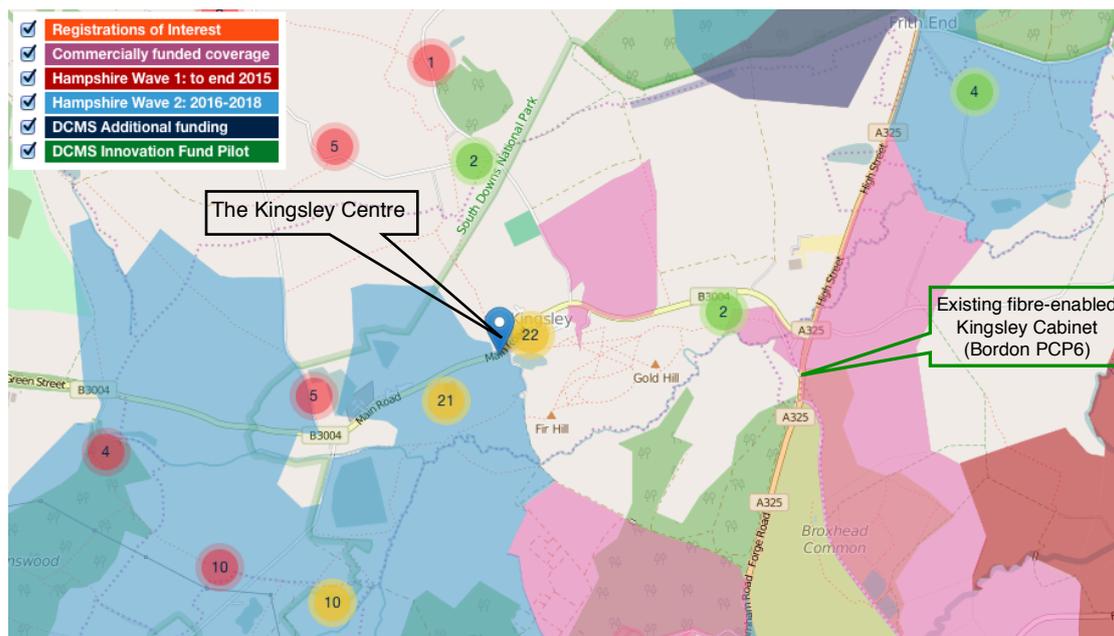
## KINGSLEY BROADBAND UPDATE

18 May 2016

Following our recent meeting with the Hampshire Superfast Broadband Programme Manager and a representative from the BT Group, we can feed back the following information:

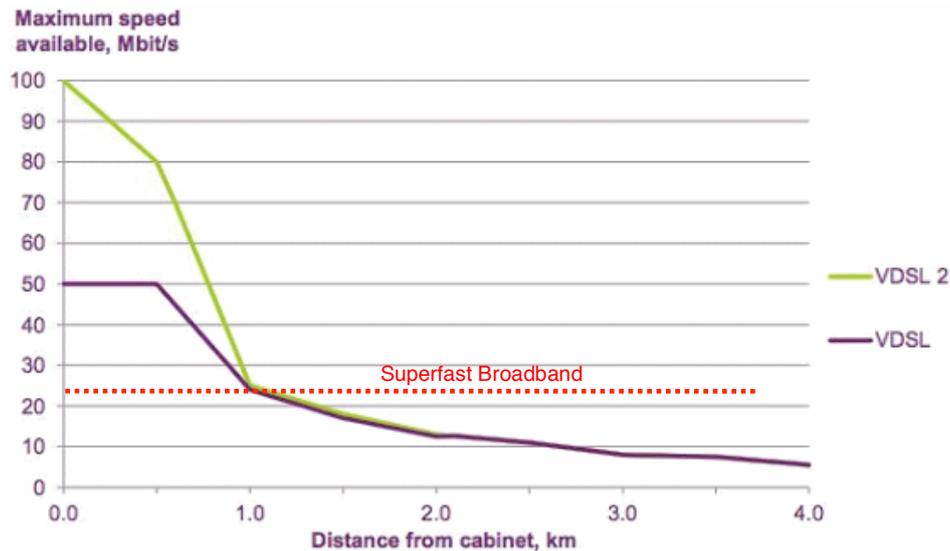
Some premises in Kingsley will be upgraded under phase 4d (the last) of Wave 2 of Hampshire's publicly funded upgrade programme, which is likely to be in mid to late 2018, in effect about 2 years away. As it stands they can't say which premises will benefit or how this will be achieved. This won't be known until phase 4's programme of work is confirmed, which could be December 2016 at the earliest or, in the case of phase 4d, as late as December 2017.

As a result, under the current programme, there is no quick solution for anyone who currently experiences slow broadband speeds. The map below shows the areas in Kingsley currently predicted to benefit (in blue).



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

It is worth noting, even when phase 4d is completed only lines that run no more than 1km from wherever a fibre cabinet is located will get superfast broadband (>24Mbps). This is because the final link, from the cabinet to premises, will still rely on the existing copper wire telephone cables. Broadband signal suffers attenuation (loss) on copper cables. The further the signal travels from the cabinet the more it attenuates. The rate at which this occurs on a hybrid fibre/copper connection, i.e. Fibre-to-the-Cabinet (FTTC) currently being deployed by BT as standard and under the HSB programme, is shown in the chart below.



Note - VDSL (Very high-bit-rate Digital Subscriber Line) and the newer VDSL 2 is the technology currently used by BT on FTTC.

## Recommendations

Under State Aid rules, public money has to be spent on deploying superfast broadband (at least 24 megabits per second) to as many premises as possible. It can't be spent on deploying to more premises at lower speeds. There are 7 fibre cabinets being installed or upgraded in the Bordon area under the HSB Programme, 3 of which are already live. HSB's Programme Manager informed us, the remaining 4 cabinets will be installed or upgraded where the highest concentration of people in the Bordon exchange area have registered an interest in superfast broadband on the HSB website.

We would therefore encourage as many as possible to register an interest in superfast broadband, if not already done so, at <http://www.hampshiresuperfastbroadband.com/register-your-interest/>. From conversations Richard has had with BT Openreach in the last couple of weeks and through some background research, it's possible that Hampshire's superfast broadband budget may increase, or new initiatives may be launched, so all expressions of interest may help our cause.

## Where do we go from here?

The only alternative option being supported by the HSB Programme for households that currently have under 2Mbps download speeds is via the satellite broadband voucher scheme, only available to those who fit this criteria and have registered an interest on the HSB website. This may be suitable for you, but general feedback is that this is an unreliable and expensive option.

As previously mentioned in the March issue of King's World, we are now looking at **self-funded** options for the village. Two solutions have been identified as probably the only routes forward, if we want to take make things happen faster and with more certainty.

As much as we might want to, the Parish Council has been told in no uncertain terms that the Council is not allowed to make any financial contribution towards self-funded options.

Also as a matter of principle, there will be no commitment to a self-funded option unless there are firm guarantees that the service offered to participants in the option will be provided.

### **Option 1 - to fund the installation of a new cabinet (or cabinets) in Kingsley**

Installing a new cabinet (or cabinets) in Kingsley would most likely be carried out by BT Openreach, however it could be done by one of their contracted partners. We've registered our interest in this option via the BT Community Fibre Partnership Team ([www.communityfibre.bt.com](http://www.communityfibre.bt.com)) and after much chasing we've now been allocated a manager, who we've now had initial talks with. In brief, the response was as follows:

1. The gap funding required to be raised by the village is likely to be in the region of £25 to £45K
2. The process requires us to collect addresses, telephone numbers and postcodes of all those interested in funding - the more we have the better
3. Once the data has been submitted, it will take about 3 months for them to survey the area and to evaluate the budget we require
4. They've suggested it would then take another 10 to 12 months for the work to be done
5. A proven route for raising the money is through crowdfunding - a mechanism whereby multiple people can contribute towards a central fund
6. Collecting and managing money is all done on the platform and no money exchange hands until the total has been achieved
7. People can contribute what they can afford

**Pros:** Good long-term solution, reliable, standard pricing once set-up, potential to upgrade Fibre-to-the-Home/Premises in the future

**Cons:** Very expensive, a new cabinet may not benefit all of the village, long lead times, speeds not guaranteed

### **Option 2 - to fund the installation of a Fixed Wireless Broadband service**

We have been in conversation with Pine Media ([www.pinemedia.net](http://www.pinemedia.net)) to set up a Fixed Wireless Broadband service, a solution that requires the following:

1. The setting up an antenna at a high point in the village, at a minimum of 10 metres
2. Ideally requires a reasonable line-of-sight with all houses connecting to it, however additional infrastructure can be installed to help this work
3. Each house needs a small disc on, or near the roof and a router which is supplied and installed by them
4. Effective up to 3 miles
5. Projected installation costs of £15K which needs to be raised by the local community
6. Set up costs per household are between £50 and £120, depending on package ordered

7. Requires a minimum of 30 subscribers, committed on a 3 year contract
8. Guaranteed speeds, based on level of package ordered
9. The service can negate the need for a BT landline and existing numbers can be transferred
10. All packages and pricing can be found on their website
11. From securing funds to installation should be no more than 2 months
12. Could also seek funding from surrounding areas, due to effectiveness over distance
13. Crowdfunding could also be used for this route

**Points to consider:**

**Pros:** Good short, medium and long-term solution, requires less funding, better coverage, very quick to set up, guaranteed speeds with lots of package options to suit different needs and budgets

**Cons:** Possible issues with line of sight, probably won't achieve the very high speeds of fibre broadband that are being talked about further into the future, fairly long contract commitment

**What you can do now**

We are looking for as many people as possible in the village to express an interest in improving their current broadband situation and potentially be prepared to contribute towards the self-funding process. Please note that this is only an expression of interest at this stage and is not a commitment to make any contribution.

At our last Parish Council meeting at the end of April we circulated some forms to fill in, as per the requirements for the BT Community Fibre Partnerships programme, but which is also applicable to the Pine Media option. You may have been approached to register your address, telephone number and postcode (but not name), so that we can submit our level of interest to one or both of the potential partners.

You may have someone knocking on your door in the next couple of weeks, but if you'd like to make sure your interest is registered, please feel free to email your address, telephone number and postcode to Richard at [councillor.coury@kingsleyparishcouncil.org](mailto:councillor.coury@kingsleyparishcouncil.org) and we'll add you to the list.

The more interest we get, the better the outcome for the village, so please don't hesitate to respond.

Many thanks,

Richard Coury & Karin Clayton  
Parish Councillors