

POTENTIAL BROADBAND SOLUTION FOR KINGSLEY AND SURROUNDING VILLAGES

At September's Kingsley Parish Council meeting we were joined by Will Dear from Pine Media (PM) to discuss how his company can offer Air-Fibre (Fixed Wireless) Broadband to premises within a 3 mile radius of Kingsley village provided enough demand is present. This could include Oakhanger, Frith End and the parts of Worldham, Wyck and Binsted that are on the Kingsley side of the surrounding hills.

For those who are interested and didn't attend the meeting, below are the details.

How it works

A fibre-optic cable is run from the nearest BT Openreach fibre trunk line to a 12 or 18meter high mast from where the broadband signal is beamed directly to a two-way antenna fitted to a suitable high point on your property.

It can deliver download speeds of 10-100Mb/s, depending on which monthly plan you choose, and can also be used for phone calls.

The site for the mast is still to be confirmed. An 18m high one would require planning permission.

The home antenna looks like a white domed wall light 17cms (just over 6 inches) in diameter. A larger 30 or 50cm one is used for premises around the 3 mile limit. It needs to have line-of-sight access to the mast – no hills or tall buildings in the way – and can be mounted up to 100m away from your house, e.g. on an outbuilding or a post, if necessary.

Cost

The cost of installing the mast and fibre-optic cable is approximately £12,000, which would need to be funded by the community.

However, the government is providing a subsidy through its Better Broadband Subsidy Scheme, which could potentially fund the mast and fibre-optic cable entirely. Under this scheme, anyone currently getting less than 2Mb/s download speed is eligible for a £300 subsidy from Hampshire County Council (subject to meeting certain criteria detailed later herein).

A minimum of 40 people who are eligible for the subsidy would need to sign up for PM's service to cover the cost. PM's high-level survey may throw up some higher than expected costs, in which case slightly more grant eligible sign-ups or crowd funding may be needed. However, this is unlikely.

You can still sign up for the service even if you are not eligible for the subsidy. At the time of writing, 70 people have already registered an interest with PM although, as yet, we don't know how many of these are getting less than 2Mb/s download speed.

You will then be responsible for paying for your home installation* – £100 if you are eligible for the subsidy, £130 if you are not – and also for the monthly fee depending on your choice of one of these broadband plans:

Per Month	Download Speed	Data Download	Contract (months)
£25	10Mb/s	Unlimited	12**
£25	20Mb/s	Unlimited	18
£38	50Mb/s	Unlimited	18
£50	100Mb/s	Unlimited	18

* Includes supplying and fitting of antenna, all external and internal wiring and a WIFI router.

** **N.B.** To meet the subsidy criteria, those who claim it must start on this plan but can upgrade after 2 weeks of service, if they wish, for no extra fee.

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Optional phone plan examples: No line rental, £10 activation fee plus

Per Month	Calls to UK Landlines	Calls to UK Mobiles	Contract (months)
£8	Unlimited	6p/minute	12
£15	Unlimited	Unlimited	12

You can keep your existing number for a £15 migration fee or receive a non-geographical 03 number for free. Other call plans available. For details go to www.pinemedia.net/home-phone/ or call 01144 031 031

Subsidy eligibility criteria

To be eligible for the subsidy, which is given in the form of an eligibility code, you must meet the following criteria:

- Your home or business is not currently able to access a broadband download speed of at least 2Mb per second;
- There are no alternative affordable broadband services available to you, which would provide a download speed of at least 2Mb per second;
- There are no plans to provide superfast broadband to your location within 12 months of your application;
- You do not already have a satellite or wireless broadband service installed.

You can check your current speed at www.speedtest.btwholesale.com

Hampshire (publicly funded) Superfast Broadband plans

There are currently no plans for the villages mentioned herein to be upgraded to superfast broadband under the Hampshire Superfast Broadband publicly funded programme before summer 2018. Please read 'Kingsley Broadband Update' dated 18 May 2016 for more details at www.kingsleyparishcouncil.org/broadband

How and when to apply for the Subsidy

The project has to be ready to go live when your unique eligibility code is claimed and your order for the service must be placed within 60 days of receiving it or it will expire. Once PM has received enough registrations of interest they will install the mast and check your property can receive their Air-Fibre service. You then apply for the subsidy at www.hampshiresuperfastbroadband.com/residents/usc/

HCC will test your line speed through BT to check that you are not able to get 2Mb/s or more. Within a month of applying, you should receive an email from HCC with your eligibility code, which you submit to PM when placing your order. PM then collects the money directly from HCC.

If you do not agree with HCC's speed test results, you can submit one appeal by email setting out the grounds for your appeal and why you believe you should have been issued with a code under the scheme. **N.B.** Taking out a broadband service under the Scheme will not prevent your premises from being considered for any publicly funded superfast broadband in the future.

How soon it could be up and running

3-4 months depending on how quickly enough people register interest and whether planning permission is required for the mast.

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How to register interest

Fill in your details at www.pinemedia.net/kingsley/ or call 01144 031 031.

N.B. Registering interest does not commit you to entering into a contract with Pine Media.

PLEASE NOTE - The performance information and costs given in this article have been provided and reviewed by Pine Media. The Parish Council is not in a position to confirm or endorse the information or offers from any supplier for the provision of broadband infrastructure. It is up to residents themselves to assess whether this offer from Pine Media meets their needs (and the risks involved) and make their own decisions on whether to express an interest or not.

ANSWERS TO OTHER QUESTIONS AT THE MEETING:

Signal interference - Unlike satellite broadband, the signal is not susceptible to interference from weather or clouds because it's transmitted below cloud level and can pass through heavy rain or snow much like TV and radio signals. It will not interfere with the NATO/MOD satellite stations in Oakhanger as it's on a different frequency.

Power outages - PM fit a 4day back-up battery on their mast. BT Openreach's back-up battery in their fibre cabinets only lasts 4 hours.

Latency - Guaranteed 30 milliseconds.

WIFI Router - Dual band. Supplied by PM. Can connect to multiple devices in your home. Own routers can be used if preferred.

Capacity and Contention - PM's core fibre-optic network supports in excess of 10Gb/s. They have 350 plus people connected on some of their masts without any problems. Unlike BT's hybrid fibre/copper cable fixed line technology currently available locally, there is no sharing of cables or cards in the cabinet so no crosstalk issues or reduced service during peak times.

Keeping your existing email address - If you have a remote service based email address – e.g. Hotmail, Gmail, AOL, Mac – you can keep your existing email address. If you have one linked to your current service provider – e.g. btinternet.com, sky.com – you might be able to keep it but may be charged for doing so. Check with your provider.

Support - PM have four UK-based staff in their head office to provide support.

Health issues - Wireless broadband providers have to be licenced and conform to strict EU standards and directives. The microwave radio frequency used is similar to your home WIFI. You are more likely to be affected by the electromagnetic fields from your mobile phone and other devices in your home if at all.

Planning Regulations - To date, PM has not encountered any planning problems with regards their masts in or outside of National Parks or AONBs. Planning regulations for home antennas can be found at:

www.planningportal.co.uk/info/200130/common_projects/48/satellitelv_and_radio_antenna

or

www.southdowns.gov.uk/planning/do-i-need-planning-permission/

If you have any further questions, email sales@pinemedia.net or call 01144 031 031