

## DIGITAL BROADBAND UPDATE – July 2016

The parish council is aware that a number of residents have contacted Digital Derbyshire in relation to the poor broadband speeds they are experiencing, and have enquired as to when fibre will be available in the village. This is in light of the recent Openreach activity in the area.

We met with the representatives of Digital Derbyshire on Friday 15 July, and we would like to take this opportunity to update you.

Digital Derbyshire advised that engineers have laid fibre optic cabling through the village of Chelmorton as an alternative route to other areas that are due to be delivered in the existing contract, as there were engineering challenges which prevented the original route being utilised. Moreover, due to existing contractual requirements they are unable to utilise the fibre to provide services to Chelmorton at this current time.

Our village remains within the Digital Derbyshire project scope, however, at this moment in time there are no committed plans in place to provide timescales and/or what type of solution will be deployed. The reason for this is because the programme has a finite amount of funding and is delivered in two phases. However, since deployment has commenced, additional funding has become available due to efficiency saving made from the first contract, which means Digital Derbyshire can start to work with BT to investigate areas that have yet to benefit from fibre broadband – but this is only after a public consultation has occurred, which is stipulated in guidance when using any form of public money (State Aid).

As an interim measure the government has committed to giving access to a broadband service with at least a 2Mbps download speed to every premises in the UK from the end of 2015. As part of this commitment, Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK) has initiated a voucher scheme, which can be redeemed with independent suppliers of wireless and satellite for eligible premises - this is entitled the Better Broadband scheme. Under the scheme Chelmorton businesses and residents can claim up to £300 (wireless) and £350 (satellite) towards hardware, installation, commissioning and activation. The on-going monthly costs are excluded from the scheme, but residents should be able to find a package that suits their requirements.

The link below takes you to the application form which needs to be completed in order to apply for the voucher. Once residents received a code, they will then be able to obtain quotes from approved suppliers. The scheme was originally targeted at satellite operators, however this has very recently been expanded to include wireless providers and Digital Derbyshire are yet to update their documentation, so ignore the reference to (just) satellite -

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/10fKidpwNorsJVcM02GiumBKFNvbE5gBGKa5cZYdsG4/viewform>  
<<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/10fKidpwNorsJVcM02GiumBKFNvbE5gBGKa5cZYdsG4/viewform>>

It's a relatively quick process, residents need to answer no to the question about BT providing less than 2Mbps (if this is the case), and confirm that they have not received more than €200,000 in EU funding (if applying as a business) in the last 3 years. There are several wireless/satellite operators within Derbyshire that are approved for the scheme, see the following link for more information - [http://www.digitalderbyshire.org.uk/news/news-items/new\\_better\\_broadband\\_scheme.asp](http://www.digitalderbyshire.org.uk/news/news-items/new_better_broadband_scheme.asp)  
<[http://www.digitalderbyshire.org.uk/news/news-items/new\\_better\\_broadband\\_scheme.asp](http://www.digitalderbyshire.org.uk/news/news-items/new_better_broadband_scheme.asp)>

We have spoken to W3Z who subject to permissions need to install a booster at Harper Hill to cover Chelmorton which will cost them around £11000. They would therefore need a good sign up for the wireless option to help them recover this investment but would be keen if there is sufficient interest.