

**Meeting note**  
**Bringing Gigabit to Shipton Meeting**  
**12 January 2022 at 7.30 pm**  
**Shipton Gorge Village Hall**

The meeting was organised to explain a government funded scheme which could bring gigabit broadband (also known as ultrafast broadband) to the village. Some fifteen persons attended, and heard presentations from Louis van Zyl (LvZ; Burton Bradstock) and Tony Mallett (TM; Shipton Gorge).

LvZ covered some of the background to the gigabit community voucher scheme, which offers up to £1500 per domestic property (£3000 per business) for the installation of “fibre-to-the-premises” (FTTP) infrastructure needed to receive the service. He also described progress achieved in Burton since an application had been started in June 2020; this was currently in its third iteration, and had been expanded to include Swyre and Punccknowle. Although the number of addresses expressing an interest had increased with each cycle, additional properties would be needed to move to the next stage. He also mentioned that a gigabit application for Litton Cheney and Long Bredy was much more advanced, with voucher funding agreed by government. Properties in those villages were now being contacted to formally “pledge” their vouchers and unlock funds necessary to commence the installation.

TM started by explaining that gigabit broadband offered connection speeds that would eventually reach 1000 Mb per second; without going into detail, this was some 12-fold faster than “superfast” and 40-fold faster than “standard” broadband. In addition, the technology was highly stable and allowed multiple users within a property to simultaneously access on-line services such as entertainment, sport, education classes or work with no line drop outs or freezes; it also included a digital ‘phone line as standard. He had run a postcode check for selected parts of the village (- broadly, Home Farm Way, Rockway, Rosamund and areas in between) and all were eligible for the voucher scheme. He echoed a point made earlier by LvZ, in that while vouchers were granted on a community basis, the “need” had to come from individuals interested in having fibre run to their property and subsequently subscribing to a gigabit service from their internet service provider. He had opened a community application with Openreach (- which is involved with Burton, Litton etc) in December, and was going to submit it at the end of January.

The discussion during the meeting was lively, covered a lot of ground and seemed generally supportive. There were many questions regarding the cost of subscribing to a gigabit service. TM commented that while installation of FTTP would be free if sufficient properties joined the application, the subsequent cost would be dependent on the connection speed purchased and whether a call or entertainment package was included. He suggested individuals use a price comparison website to investigate this further.

Extracts from the slide pack can be viewed on the village website.

The meeting closed around 9.30 pm.

Tony Mallett  
16-01-22