



Connecting Ashendon

## **Broadband Working Group – Update 05/03/2018**

We have been told that there will definitely be a delay to the project and we will not have our cabinets commissioned by 23<sup>rd</sup> March as set out in the contract with Openreach. The delay, however, is somewhat defined inasmuch as we are advised that we should be able to place orders for a Superfast Broadband connection with service providers by the end of April, some five weeks later than planned.

Here is what we are told is happening:

- Power still needs to be connected to the two cabinets, and the power company has advised that this will be done on 26<sup>th</sup> March for both the one in Ashendon at East Farm (designated as Waddesdon Cabinet 10) and the Pollicott one (Cabinet 11).
- The installation of the fibre requires traffic management for 5 days to allow Openreach to work on the highway and the allocated start date for this is 12<sup>th</sup> March.

Once all the engineering tasks are completed and the fibre and power is provided to the cabinet, the last stage of commissioning will follow. This involves final tests and handover to the service providers so that orders can be placed.

Openreach also tell us that those residents who currently have live broadband services through the existing cabinet (presumably at Westcott) will need to have their service “migrated” once the commissioning work has been completed. Apparently this is a complex piece of network rearrangement that will take time and requires liaising and programming works with all the service providers who have customers on these cabinets.

We have been assured that this delay and its amelioration has the focus of our Openreach senior management and that the Openreach Community Broadband team are doing what they can to improve on these timescales wherever possible. To this end the Connecting Ashendon CIC has made suitable representations to higher Openreach management which has been acknowledged and we are expecting a response in the near future.