



Throwley Superfast Fibre Broadband Project

Annual Parish Meeting

19:30 Tuesday 7th September 2021, Throwley Church

Fibre is the solution to our current and future broadband needs with speeds up to 1000Mbps. Access to the internet is perceived now as important as water and electricity. It has been shown how vital it is in these pandemic times.

Timeline so far

- 10/11/2020 – Throwley Community Superfast Fibre Broadband Project launched.
- 17/11/2020 – Project submitted to Openreach. 92 properties have registered, including 30 businesses. 54 properties with the download speeds below 3Mbps.
- 05/01/2021 – Openreach included all 161 (later increased to 164) premises connected to the Eastling exchange distribution points. Estimated project costs to community £324,761.
- 19/02/2021 – Last day of the submission of the projects for the approval to the Government Department of Digital, Culture, Media, and Sport (DCMS). Openreach claimed they submitted on time, but the project has not been considered within the original scheme. Why?
- April 2021 – New £5bn 'Project Gigabit' launched by Government. Throwley qualifies but Kent is not on the priority list => delay with the approval by DCMS.
- **07/09/2021 – still waiting for DCMS approval.**
- September/October 2021 - KCC to launch its top-up voucher scheme for rural areas.

Once DCMS approves the project

- Openreach will create a website for the project where we will be able to pledge our vouchers.
- Every eligible address can claim a residential voucher worth up to £1,500 (or up to £3,500 for a business/sole trader) to improve broadband in their local area.
- For non-business premisses, older than 3 years, and with the download speeds below 30Mbps, an additional top-up KCC voucher of up to £1,000 can be claimed.
- **The community needs to come together to pledge and validate their individual vouchers and reach the required pledge target within 3 months => talk to your neighbours now!**
- When there are enough confirmed vouchers, Openreach will start to build the network. Ours is a very big project, so it may take up to 12 months to complete.
- Once the new Full Fibre service becomes available, each one of us will need to subscribe to a commercial broadband connection service with a provider of one's choice. If the current speed is below 50Mbps (most of the Throwley parish), then the new connection speed must be at least double. If the current speed is more than 50Mbps (as in Throwley Forstal), then the new connection speed must be at least 100Mbps (approximate cost at present £25-£45 per month).
- **Parish Council will organise a community support and advise network to help during the whole process. We need local champions. Please come forward if you can help.**

Additional information: www.throwley.org
www.gigabitvoucher.culture.gov.uk

Questions: adam@jastrzebski.co.uk