

THE LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL IS FIBRE

by Frazer Hamilton

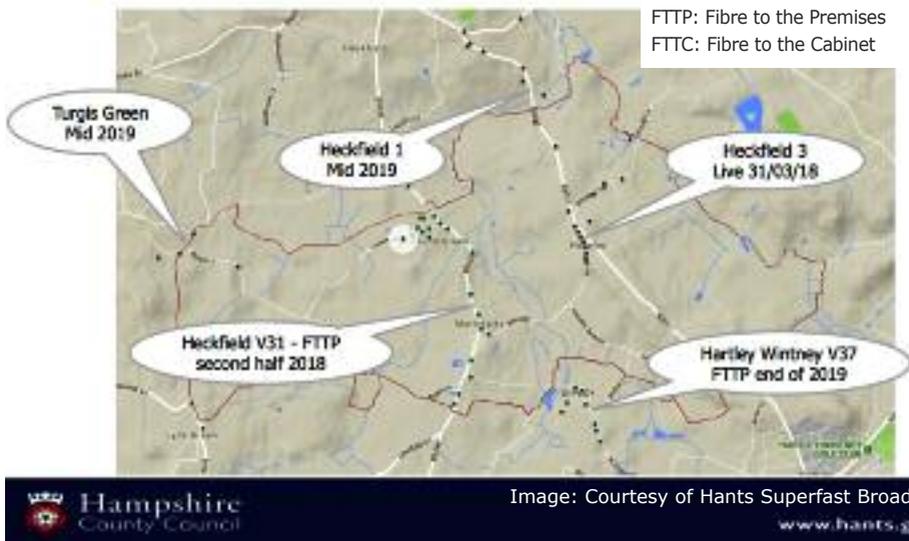


The Mattingley Parish Council meeting of 16th of June included a presentation on Broadband provision. The Parish Council requested the meeting to gain an understanding of where the Parish stood regarding the provision of Superfast Broadband connectivity. Thanks to Glenn Pacey from Hants Superfast Broadband and Shaun Dale from BT Openreach who both travelled some distance and sacrificed watching England in the first World Cup tie!

The map below provides a guide as to when these services are expected to be available across the Parish. These dates are targets not commitments, however funding is available to complete the work. The serving exchange shown as Heckfield 3 was live from the end of March; next will be Heckfield V31 which should be live in late Autumn.

To receive updates, register with www.hants.gov.uk/broadband.

New Broadband provision across Mattingley Parish 2018-19

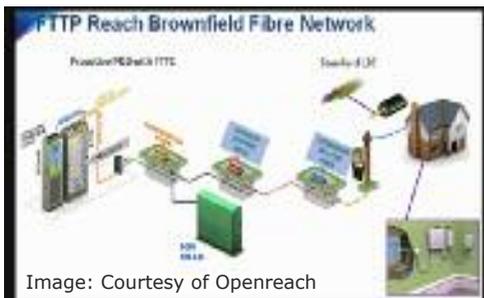


Glenn Pacey provided an overview of the UK programme, and then in more detail the Hampshire programme where a total of £35M has been spent or allocated by national Government and Hampshire County Council with Openreach partnering as service providers.

Funding restrictions impact more on rural communities, as provision costs are higher and it takes longer to achieve returns. As is standard practice, businesses have invested more where the return is best. The good news is that via the Hampshire programme there is now a timeline for delivery of these services to most across the Parish.

Shaun Dale gave a layman's explanation of fibre delivery and provision. The reason that many of us receive low speed internet access is primarily that we are too far from the serving telephone exchanges. These were designed and developed for telephony many years ago. The infrastructure which supports these exchanges is copper wire and not capable of delivering the quality of line now required.

The Internet although now ubiquitous has been around for a very short period, for public use less than 20 years. For example, in 1996 the whole of BT with 100,000 employees had 3Mb access to the Internet, that is now considered low speed. In order to meet the demand, significant investment is essential and that is underway.



There are two methods of delivery for fibre optic cable, one via Cabinets (FTTC), the other Fibre to the Premises (FTTP). The drawing left illustrates both services and both will provide high speed Broadband.

Fibre maintains signal speed over distance. But when fibre goes only to the Cabinet the signal continues onwards via existing copper wire and so decreases with distance from the Cabinet. As one would expect, the chosen method relates to comparative cost.

You can check your broadband availability on the following web sites
www.homeandbusiness.openreach.co.uk and www.dslchecker.bt.com

The Hants Broadband / Openreach presentation is on the website www.mattingley-pc.org.uk

Mattingley War Memorial

by Bob Aylmer

The Parish Council has been approached by a number of parishioners with respect to the location and possible relocation of the War Memorial.

The Memorial was erected in 1950 as a bus shelter. Then, there was a regular bus service and the Reading Road was quiet; neither is the case today.

The annual memorial service is well attended, but is disrupted by traffic noise. There is a road safety issue for attendees in both crossing the main road and attending the service. The same applies for people visiting the Memorial at any time. There is no car parking available – or safe standing area – adjacent to the Memorial.

There are other issues to consider. The War Memorials Trust warns that: 'Relocation of war memorials should be a last resort as it is potentially damaging to the memorial and also removes the historic association of the memorial with its original location.'

Though not listed, the War Memorial is in the Mattingley Green Conservation Area and correct permissions need to be considered. Hart District Council advises that moving a memorial for safety reasons may be considered reasonable with sufficient evidence, but the site it is moved to should be appropriate to its original purpose as a bus shelter.

As a first stage in any debate we need to hear your views, and also the views of those whose relatives are named in the Memorial. Should you know of such relatives from outside the *Whitewater Magazine* catchment area, please pass this article on.

Please may we have your views to the parish clerk at clerk.mattingley@parish.hants.gov.uk.



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