Broadband Rollout

1. Background

The Wiltshire Online programme has run since 2013 and has sought to deliver broadband to premises that were considered commercially non-viable. Parts of Calne Without were covered in a previous phase of FTTP (fibre to the premises) rollout by Gigaclear in 2021/22. However, this did not cover the whole of the parish, and some difficult-to-reach properties within the areas covered by Gigaclear were omitted.

Project Gigabit is a £5B government infrastructure project to provide fast and reliable digital connectivity for the entire country by 2030. Regional procurements are managed by Building Digital UK (BDUK), part of the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT). Last year, a contract was awarded to OpenReach for coverage to North Wiltshire, Swindon and South Gloucestershire. The rollout programme is currently being developed.

Rollout will cover routine installations at up to £1,200 cost. For hard-to-reach properties, there will be a voucher scheme for homes and businesses, worth up to £4,500 towards installation cost.

Further information is provided here: https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/article/7003/Project-Gigabit-overview

2. Proposal

At our February meeting, a member of the public requested that the Parish Council takes a proactive role to ensure that the parish does not get left behind. He envisaged a nominated parish councillor taking an active role of championing provision, tracking plans for further rollout and providing updates to residents.

3. Recommendation

It is recommended that Council nominates a willing Councillor to track plans for the further delivery of broadband provision to the parish, and to provide regular updates to residents.

Cllr John Barnes