Most of you will no doubt have seen information circulated by County Broadband, had visits from their representative, and joined into the webinars. Whether or not you decide to sign up to a fibre broadband service is a personal decision. The Parish Council support the provision of this service and have in this letter set out some information that may assist in your decision-making process.

Many in the village have expressed a view that they currently get sufficient speed through the copper network. But upgrading to a fibre network is not about the speed and capacity you get now, but what happens in the future. It is about whether the copper network can manage increasing usage and changes that are being introduced over the next few years. We are all using more broadband enabled devices - smart phones, tablets, Zoom to catch up with family, catch-up TV (iPlayer etc.), and streaming TV using Netflix, Amazon Prime and others. And in recent years the ever-increasing numbers of people working from home, and school pupils doing e-learning has put further pressure on the network. This ever-increasing demand for more data is why we need a fibre network.

County Broadband are offering a Fibre to the Premises service. The base service (50mbps) has similar speeds to the best achievable by copper, but with equal download and upload speeds and significantly greater bandwidth (capacity). Where households and businesses prefer, they can choose to have much higher speeds (300mbps +), well beyond anything that can be provided by the copper network. Households can upgrade over time if circumstances change. It’s the equivalent of the change from the old dial-up internet to the current FTTC. I am sure everyone will agree it made a huge difference. The move to fibre is the same. It is a quantum leap that future-proofs the village and enables us to keep up with the modern world. Many families moving into the village will have an expectation of fibre broadband, families will make decisions to buy in villages with fibre broadband and avoid those where it is not available. We can wait until sometime in the future when Openreach will install fibre, or grasp the opportunity now.

**If we secure this for the village, we can all benefit either immediately in the future.** The incentives to join now are very tempting

- No installation fee (£225 after the initial sign-up offer)

- If you pre-order you are in - if you don’t, there is an outside chance that the infrastructure may not fully extend to your property, my understanding is that if you sign up now, they undertake to ensure you will be on their network

- The first 6 months of a broadband contract is half price saving between £100 -£270

- You will be in the first wave of installation and connection within 12-18 months

- Free for up to 12 months whilst you complete an existing broadband contract

- Speed is symmetrical – upload and downloads are equally as fast!