



EBAG Information

December 2017 Update

There has been a lot of behind the scenes activity within the EBAG team over the last few weeks and we wanted to provide you with an update on the developments.

As you may recall, we have been looking at three options: Fixed Wireless (Redraw), BT Broadband and 4G.

Redraw:

In the South of the village, 15 households have said they would like to take up Redraw Service and the Park-Weirs are the first to have this installed; they are receiving a 50MB service and it has been reliable since install. The mast with receiver is on the north of the house if you want to see what it looks like. The service should be available now to all properties *not* on or near the Axford road. Redraw are working to set up infrastructure to reach Axford Road properties.

BT Openreach

In terms of the future BT solution, on 12th December, members of the EBAG team had a meeting with Hampshire County Council (HCC) broadband team and BT Openreach. There are 3 key updates that came from this meeting:

1. The Better Basic Broadband (voucher) scheme for properties with less than 2mb has been extended into 2018 (previously expiring end 2017) giving us more time to decide how to use this.
 - a. The vouchers can be used to support a match funding scheme if we decide to pursue this for Ellisfield South i.e. Ellisfield only has to raise half the cost of the solution with the other half matched by HCC. The use of the Better Basic Broadband vouchers for a BT scheme was not previously possible. Properties in the North are not eligible as they will be getting broadband under the existing Hampshire program. The subsidies on offer are on a first come first served basis and Ellisfield will need to take action quickly in order to take advantage.
 - b. Each household can only have 1 voucher. It can be used for Redraw (or other provider) but then won't be able help fund any potential match funding scheme
2. BT Openreach are continuing work on a quote for Superfast broadband to Ellisfield South:
 - a. BT have said they will provide a quote for the "optimal" service for Ellisfield South and BT said is likely to be a fibre to premises solution. This would offer all Southern properties the same high speed broadband regardless of distance from the cabinet and EBAG thinks would be a better solution than the one proposed 2 years ago
 - b. Using the Better Basic Broadband (voucher) scheme to help fund the BT scheme would be likely to make the funding target much smaller and achievable
 - c. BT/HCC say they expect to provide a quote for Ellisfield South to EBAG in Jan 2018
 - d. If we are able to go ahead with the BT scheme we have been told it would currently take about 12 months from order to delivery of the scheme
3. The upgrade to Superfast for North of the village roll out should be completed Autumn/end of 2018 although the date is yet to be fixed.

4G

We have been testing 4G at various points in the village and it looks like it should be available to most if not all properties. If you are interested please let us know. Here are the test results:

1. EE: midway along Green Lane and achieving 14mbps download speeds without any external antenna
2. Vodafone Axford Road: 20 mbps download speeds but required an external antenna. EE does not look to be an option on Axford Road.

We will be back in touch in the New Year with the outcome from the BT re-quote and our options as a village.

Merry Christmas

EBAG contact: aaswanston@gmail.com

EBAG – Gavin Park Weir, Ashley Turberfield, Julian Wright, Andy/Ali Swanston, Alix Taylor, Charlie Hellewell, Dirk/Janette Bacon