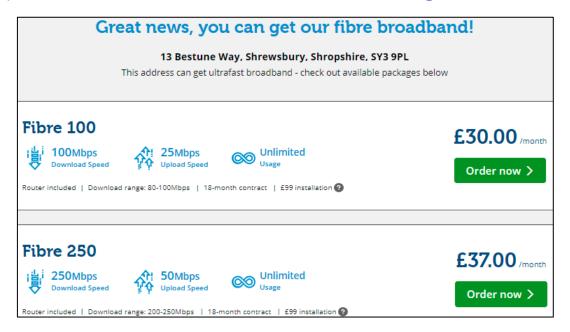
## Broadband update for Bayston Hill Parish Council - July 2021



Connecting Shropshire is a multi-million pound programme to bring faster broadband to the parts of the Shropshire Council area where private companies are not going to provide it as part of their current commercial plans. Since 2013, the programme has provided access to superfast broadband for over **68,000** homes and businesses. The programme is due to complete in winter 2021.

In 2014/15 Connecting Shropshire provided access to superfast broadband (30mbps) for around **2,100 premises** in the parish from Openreach's 'fibre to the cabinet' broadband network. Parishioners wanting to access the Openreach broadband network need to make the switch by upgrading to a fibre broadband package with their chosen internet service provider. Parishioners can visit the Openreach website to check the availability of fibre broadband: <a href="https://www.openreach.com/fibre-broadband">https://www.openreach.com/fibre-broadband</a>

Some premises in the north of the parish have recently gained access to Airband's ultrafast 'fibre to the premises' broadband network, to check availability please use the postcode checker on their website: <a href="https://www.airband.co.uk/">https://www.airband.co.uk/</a>, call 01905 676121 or email: <a href="https://www.airband.co.uk/">hello@airband.co.uk/</a>



Openreach have announced their intention to upgrade the Bayston Hill exchange area to a 'fibre to the premises' network during the three-year period from April 2022. This is a commercial decision and doesn't involve Shropshire Council funding.

## **Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme**

Connecting Shropshire doesn't currently have any further plans to improve broadband connectivity in the parish. However, Shropshire Council has made up to £1m of additional funding available to 'top-up' the national Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme. The maximum funding per voucher is £4,000 for homes and £7,000 for businesses. To qualify for the Scheme, groups of two or more residents/ businesses must be located in a rural area and be unable to get broadband speeds of 100Mbps. For full details, see: <a href="http://connectingshropshire.co.uk/gigabit-broadband-voucher-scheme">http://connectingshropshire.co.uk/gigabit-broadband-voucher-scheme</a>

## Queries

If parishioners have specific queries, they should contact Connecting Shropshire with their question as well as providing their address and landline number (if they have one).

## **Contact Details**

- www.connectingshropshire.co.uk
- connecting.shropshire@shropshire.gov.uk
- **1** 01743 252203