

## Online People's Forum - YOUR VOICE CAN BE HEARD

Waveney Green Party

Broader BROADBAND

Monday 15 Feb 2021 6.00 - 7.00pm on Zoom

### Andrew Introduction

Missing our physical connections, our virtual ones have become so important. We've learned to Zoom! Shop, keep fit, and so much more online. Good quality broadband is now a basic utility like running water, do we have full utility and what is out there for us?

Our last Peoples Forum on Social Isolation a Barnby Parish councillor and COVID volunteer co-ordinator said that a poor Broadband signal adversely affected isolated people in her community, which links directly into this forum.

This forum was NOT offering individual solutions or a place to moan about individual stories. Rather what options are out there for us, as individuals and as a community, and what is your experience - problems and solutions.

As with many of our forums, it is offered as a forum to voice community experiences for East Suffolk Council scrutiny meeting about local provision. Town, District and County councillors are here and will take your concerns

## Background - Rachel

What's on offer?

Some of us here remember dial up. That noise of transmission, then handshaking, and finally a connection, and we'd go away to make a cup of coffee /tea if we were downloading. We've come a long way.

1. We've moved on from Copper - ADSL to Fibre to Local Cabinet (FTTC) to Fibre all the way to your Premises (FTTP)
2. What about Satellite Broadband, Wireless Broadband, Mobile Broadband - 4 G and 5G? Sounds to me as if these are fine as interim solutions or if you live in the middle of a health with little chance of fibre to your door.
3. Slow Broadband? The distance your home is from the telephone exchange, the time of day you go online and the number of people in your home using the internet at the same time, can all play a part in slowing down your connection. Your device may also not be set-up correctly or the line that provides the internet connection to your home may be damaged, while your internet provider's traffic management policies could also be a factor.
4. There is also a confusion of providers, with different fits for different streets, and if you live at the end of a lane, good luck! The notoriously poor provision in rural areas often results in slow broadband speeds.
5. What is our criterion/ Motive: price/technical support/ speed and download allowances?
6. There are two potentially useful local Suffolk ventures

OpenReaches Community Fibre Partnership

<https://www.openreach.com/fibre-broadband/community-fibre-partnerships>

For example being investigated by someone who has made contact with us from Bungay, which has a dearth of fibre in one street. The idea behind it is to collect details from households that are interested in having a fibre connection to their property (FTTP) rather than to the cabinet (FTTC) then copper cables to the property (creating the bottleneck and slow speeds) Openreach will then provide a budgetary quotation outlining their costs, this can then be submitted to all interested parties to gauge interest. Openreach will cover a large portion of the cost, the government and council will also cover part, leaving a small shortfall that is made up by the households/businesses that wish to have fibre.

<https://www.betterbroadbandsuffolk.com/>

Better Broadband for Suffolk (BB4S) programme started in 2010, and receives public funding to make fibre broadband available in areas that are not expected to be covered by commercial upgrades. This programme is expected to complete in 2020. It's aim to roll out superfast broadband to these 'hardest to reach' communities, which are predominately in rural areas.

## Our experiences

Andrew - South Cove. Half a mile from local fibre cabinet. Uses RAID company based in Hinten, and direct line of site satellite. Started as used by Springwatch when connecting owl boxes in Minsmere. Expensive to set up (roughly £3-400, but the charges not different from normal internet.

Some found the whole internet adventure a terrifying thing! Others that you had to keep your eye on their charges. One District Councillor had much experience of poor internet at the end of a long track and suggested Community Fibre partnership an option.

For some with no possibility of Fibre, the mobile 4G signal good and using Hotspot on mobile, this provides very good internet connection. If you have unlimited data on phone, this is certainly an option.

However, the most successful was Fibre to the Premises, which appears to be an option due to Government incentive to switch UK onto super highway. To deliver the numbers and coverage, they needed rural to tick that box. Hence the shift from towns to rural. Must look at deals, speed and unlimited.

The major problem however, was not the isolated rural home but a whole street in Bungay – around 200 people for whom fibre is not financially feasible

## Summary

Many people have benefited from Fibre to premises (FTTP), and it could to be freely offered. The major weakness appears not to be in rural areas, but downtown Bungay. Difficult to navigate service providers - to find who and what and where

## Andrew - conclusion

Waveney Green Party - People's Forums Schedule 2021

These Forums offer a safe and informed platform to discuss issues important to us all. They will be held monthly on Zoom. They are open to all members of the public from the Beccles, Bungay, Halesworth and Lowestoft districts. The schedule (once a month 3rd Monday) for the first few months of 2021 is as follows - you are welcome to make suggestions for future

Forums.

To hear more or register for our regular events, email us at [info@waveneygreenparty.org.uk](mailto:info@waveneygreenparty.org.uk). We will send you a link for each Zoom meeting. Your suggestions for future forums are welcome

**MARCH - Monday March 15 at 6pm ZOOM**

Refuse collection / Fly tipping / Recycling -

This is another subject coming up for Scrutiny at East Suffolk Council.

Please bring your questions - some of which we may be able to answer. Those that we can't we can email to the Officers - but above all we can take to Scrutiny.

For example, what's happening to all the throw-away face-masks and gloves?

**APRIL - Monday April 19th at 6pm ZOOM**

Flooding and house building - Long term strategy

It's been the wettest and most flooded winter here in the Waveney Valley. Why are we building on flood plains and water meadows (Pilgrims way in Bungay for example) Where does the effluent water from the new houses go to? The water table is higher than it has ever been.