

## Llanfair Waterdine Parish Council Report

<b>Appendix Ref:</b>	LWPC_nov16_report_1
<b>Topic:</b>	Llanfair Broadband Public Meeting 6 <sup>th</sup> October 2016
<b>Prepared By:</b>	Andrew Beavan

### Report:

This public meeting was organised by the Parish Council in response to concerns in the Community Led Plan, and Questions asked at the Annual Parish Meeting.

Around 40 parishioners joined Councillors to hear interesting updates about Broadband provision in the Parish from Chris Taylor, Shropshire Council Programme Manager, Patrick Crosgrove, Shropshire and Marches Campaign for Better Broadband, and Nigel Hartin, Shropshire Councillor .

The meeting was Chaired by Barry Swancott who announced that Chris New of Secure Web Services who had also been invited to speak, had declined at short notice .

Patrick Crosgrove explained that 10 megabits promised by the Government by 2020 probably would not be enough, with multiple users in most homes and television going that way as well. He went on to explain that the best option was Fibre to the premises (FTTP), Herefordshire has provided this to 30% of properties, while Shropshire has only achieved 2%. Second best is Fibre to the cabinet (FTTC) or Wireless, with third best being Satellite or mobile Phone (3G, 4G).

Patrick ended by showing us photographs of Fibre Cable at the Mill (Lloyney), and at Nantiago , Posing the question to Chris Taylor as to what this was for?

Chris Taylor gave us financial figures relating to phase 2, where £11.3 Million of Government money was not match funded by Shropshire Council, but £5 Million LEP funding had been secured . He explained that FTTC was only likely to benefit users within about 1.4 Km of the box. Chris was unsure of the cross boarder connections in spite of earlier requests from the Council for him to investigate this. He said that phase 2 may benefit a small amount of parishioners from work on the Clun Exchange and some parishioners from work on the Knighton Exchange, however no benefit would be gained from the Beguildy exchange .

Chris went on to say that Llanfair Parish was part of Phase 2(b), in which various technologies would be considered for broadband provision .Procurement applications were going out to providers next month, with a time scale for reaching a decision in February 2017, however he was unable to give timescales for provision of service. . Additionally he said an application had been made to LEP for funding to provide superfast Broadband to businesses, though he didn't know which would qualify. The result of this should be known by the end of November.

Many Questions were asked particularly to Chris Taylor about detailed issues, some of which he promised to investigate and report further on.

Nigel Hartin supported and sympathised with the questions and agreed to try and find answers. He asked those present about their interest in a possible commercial solution that could possibly be delivered much more quickly .The audience voted strongly in favour of this, and Nigel agreed to work with the Council to arrange a further public meeting to expand on this.

The Chair thanked the speakers and all who attended

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm .