**Rathmell, Wigglesworth and Giggleswick Broadband**

**Update from Roger Vincent, 21 October, 2017**

We are in the process of 're-branding' our group as Rathmell, Wigglesworth and Giggleswick\* Broadband (\* west of the A65) in order to recognise our friends in our project area who are part of Giggleswick parish.

**Routes**

We are progressing with getting 'Agreement in Principle' from all the landowners whose land we may need to cross in order to bring connections to interested properties.  We now have agreement in principle to get us all the way down the main trunk from where we join the existing B4RN network at Lawkland down to Rathmell and on to all the central parts of Wigglesworth.

We are still working on getting agreements in place heading west of Rathmell towards Hesley Lane / Old Oliver Lane, and south of Wigglesworth towards Coars Farm and West Thornber, and east of Wigglesworth towards Cow Bridge.  We have made some progress on each of these routes but there are still a few people to track down and talk to.  As some of these outstanding places where we don't yet have agreement can potentially have a knock on effect of changes in routing to certain locations, which in turn affects the numbers of fibres in cables that would need to be laid, which in turn affects the overall project cost, we don't yet have a firmer idea of the overall project cost.  We aim to resolve these important agreements as soon as possible in order to get a good estimate of the project cost.

I will look to get a map image out to you all giving an indication of where we believe we can get to with the agreements that we currently have.

Alongside this we will also be looking to liaise with the landowners to get routes agreed, individual route maps prepared and wayleaves signed.  We will be starting this process with landowners on 'Route 1' (Lawkland to Rathmell) imminently.  To help us with this process we are looking to get access to 'Parish Online' mapping as this gives the ability to produce high resolution maps with field boundary detail (which parish councils can get access to), and Ribblebanks Parish Council has kindly agreed to take up a subscription and they should have a login any day now.

**Investment**

B4RN have advised that they feel we are basically ready to start looking at gathering actual investment. I am keen to get to the point where we have a good costing in place so that we all have an idea of the kind of target we are aiming for before calling for investment to begin.

n.b. the costing we get from B4RN will be the 'worst case' scenario which assumes that we dig to every property in the area (which is highly unlikely as the projects only dig to get to interested properties) and that every metre dug (paid at £1.50 per metre) is paid for in cash rather than shares.  Dig metres paid in cash come out of the money the community has invested whereas those paid in shares are B4RN's own future liability so this can have a significant effect on the amount of investment required.

The following investment related documents are from the B4RN website <https://b4rn.org.uk/> which you may want to look over

<https://b4rn.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Invitation-to-Subscribe-for-shares-in-B4RN-v3.1-21.9.17.pdf>

<https://b4rn.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/B4RN-Business-Plan-v5-2.pdf>

<https://b4rn.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Share-application-form-B4RN-V5.1-21.9.17.pdf>

n.b. it is also possible to make a loan to B4RN as an alternative investment path - need to check with B4RN for availability/details.

It is likely that B4RN will give us a minimum threshold of investment that we need to gather before we would be able to commence digging.  This will typically be the expected cost to install 'Route 1' (i.e. cost to cover digging, duct and cable) and the cost to install the area control node (cabinet and equipment) beside Rathmell Reading Room.

We will be able to start the project without having investment in place to cover the whole project so there is plenty of scope to come in as a new investor or make additional investment after the project has started.

**Digging**

Our aim is to be ready to start work in Spring 2018 as soon as the weather/field conditions allow.  To enable this we will be working through the intervening months to gather at least the minimum threshold investment, get detailed routes agreed and wayleaves signed, draw up lists of volunteers who are willing to help with the digs, and look to put together a rough working plan with landowners/tenants as to when we might be able to dig in particular fields.

Beyond that it is difficult to give any meaningful estimate of timescales as to 'when will B4RN reach my property' as there are a lot of variables with the weather not being the least of them.

As ever if you have a question or want to see if you can help in some way please just get in touch.

Best regards,

Roger