

# Northern Fells Broadband Newsletter - June

## Background

The Steering Group of volunteers, representing each of the seven parishes, aims to make Super Fast Broadband available to every household within the parishes of the Northern Fells area.

## Recent Activity

Over recent weeks our enthusiastic committee members and volunteers have been working hard on behalf of the parishes - holding awareness meetings, distributing leaflets and calling on households throughout the area, with the aim of finding the level of interest in Super Fast Broadband.

To date an average of 43 people a day have registered their interest in receiving the service. At the time of going to press the overall take-up level across all seven parishes has reached 49%, with three significantly exceeding this figure. The largest, Rosley & Westward, has reached an impressive 76%. We are well ahead of all other Cumbrian groups and are on target to achieve between 60% to 70% sign-up.

## Endorsements

Many high profile endorsements have been received supporting the project from people including the Area's three MP's, Head Teachers, Captains of Industry, and local celebrities.

## The Way Forward

The time has come to review our position and to decide a strategy and a way forward. The next step is to meet and discuss ideas for action. To that end the group will now consider: -

1. Whether we will be selected by the government to become one of the funded Pilot projects in Cumbria
2. Or to proceed by finding an industry partner who is prepared to deliver broadband in the area without government help or subsidy.

We have fully met the government's requirements and demonstrated clear demand in our community. We now need to meet again with the government department empowered to deliver high speed broadband to rural areas (BDUK), and ascertain if funding is going to be available and, if so, at what level, and when?

If we are awarded funded pilot status, we would then be able to contact providers in the telecoms industry to see what technical solutions they are able offer.

Once solutions have been proposed by suppliers, they will be offered to the Northern Fells Community for their consideration.

## How to Get the Very Latest Information

The group website is constantly being updated and includes a live link showing the level of take-up across the seven parishes. Please have a look round the site and keep up-to-date at <http://www.northernfellsbroadband.co.uk/>

## How You Can Help

- o Make sure that you have registered your interest
- o Please share this information with others and encourage them to register
- o Let the Secretary Aileen West know by phone on 01697 344 254 or via [email](#): -
  - o if you are able to assist the group by becoming a helper
  - o if you would like to contribute to funding the groups expenses
  - o if you wish to Unsubscribe

**Many thanks for taking the time to read this update**