



CYNGOR TREF LLANWRTYD WELLS TOWN COUNCIL

The Llanwrtyd Wells, Abergwesyn and surrounding areas Gigabit Fibre Broadband Scheme

Dear Resident,

This letter is being sent to you by the Chair of the Llanwrtyd Wells Town Council, Councillor James Davies supported by our County Councillor, Timothy Van-Rees. The purpose of the letter is to establish the level of interest in providing a reliable and ultra-fast broadband connection of a minimum of 100 Mbps to the homes and businesses in the area covered by the two community councils named above. **This letter requires your urgent attention to allow the level of interest in the proposal to be assessed.**

Introduction

The Town Council has met to consider how reliable and fast broadband provision could be brought to the area. We have chosen Broadway Partners as our supplier. This broadband company is delivering a number of full fibre networks in Monmouthshire and Pembrokeshire, is about to start work in Powys in Llanafan Fawr and Llanwrthwl with plans in development for many other communities across Powys, Ceredigion and Carmarthenshire. There is significant financial support available from the UK and Welsh Governments, but of course there are a number of requirements that must be met before this funding can be accessed.

Background

There have been developments which hopefully can fuel our aim to have a broadband service in our communities which is comparable with the fastest speeds available in Wales.

Funding of up to £3,000 and £7,000 is currently available for each rural property. This is for both residential and business properties. Farms are identified as business properties. The funding is only available to support community schemes and cannot be accessed by individuals alone.

How much will this cost?

Installation is free to any household or business wishing to be part of the scheme. Those committing to the scheme will, however, pay a monthly fee for the broadband service they are connected to. A monthly fee of £19.99 provides the minimum service of 100 Mbps fibre-based broadband connection with unlimited data, with options available at additional cost for 300 Mbps and 1,000 Mbps. It is also possible to have an internet "VOIP" telephone service (you can keep your existing number). If you chose to do this, you will not need to pay line rental for a telephone as may currently be the case. Call charges will, however, be in addition. The monthly payments will be made to Broadway and the initial contract will be 12 months in length.

What technology will be used?

The funding scheme requires connections to be via fibre optic cables connected directly to your property NB do not confuse this with BT's standard "fibre" broadband which only provides a high-speed connection to your nearest BT cabinet with a typical speed to your property between

30 and 70 Mbps. Compared to other technologies, a full fibre connection allows the installation to have a far longer lifespan as well as ensuring the infrastructure can support much faster broadband speeds both now and in the future. A fibre-based system will deliver speeds up to 1 gigabit per second (ie 1,000 Mbps). This type of service is typically only available in urban areas and is far superior to the usual BT broadband service provided over existing copper telephone lines or a combination of fibre to the cabinet and copper to the property.

How will the cables be installed?

Broadway's focus is on putting the service in place as quickly as possible. They will use existing BT poles and ducting wherever possible. They also have an agreement to use Western Power low voltage poles. Where necessary, they will put up new poles or install new ducting.

Will households and businesses have to 'sign-up' before work can begin?

Households will only be required to register their interest to be part of the scheme. To make the scheme viable, at least 30% of the households and businesses in our communities will need to register their interest.

It will be possible to be connected to the new network at some point after it has been installed, but this could incur installation costs which could be significant. Registering your interest to join the scheme now removes any installation costs as they are met by government grants.

Won't waiting for BT be a better idea?

There is no evidence that BT are interested in extending their existing superfast broadband service to those properties in our area that are not currently connected.

What happens next?

It is essential that we know how many households and business have signed-up to be part of the scheme as soon as possible, as we need to achieve 30% coverage to get the project underway. This will allow the community councils and Broadway to access the government grants for the installations across our communities.

If you wish to register your interest in the scheme, please do so in one of the following ways:

- Complete the attached form and return it to Cheryl Hood, Clerk to Llanwrtyd Wells Town Council, Llanwrtyd Hall, Station Road, Llanwrtyd Wells LD5 4RW or email: lwtcclerk@gmail.com
- Go to www.broadwaybroadband.co.uk, enter your postcode and register your interest online

At this stage you are NOT committing to take the service, just registering your interest. Please do this as soon as possible.

Finally, I would like to stress what an important community-based scheme this is and how much we hope you will feel able to register your interest and help us ensure those living or working in this area have access to broadband internet that matches the best in Wales and the UK.

Yours faithfully,

James Davies

Mayor and Chair of Llanwrtyd Wells Town Council,

Councillor *Timothy Van-Rees* County Councillor, Powys County Council



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**The Llanwrtyd Wells, Abergwesyn and surrounding area Fibre
Broadband Scheme**

I/we wish to express an interest in the Llanwrtyd Wells, Abergwesyn and surrounding area Scheme. I understand the information I provide will be shared with the preferred provider of the ultra-fast fibre broadband service in the area.

Please complete **IN BLOCK CAPITALS** a separate form for each individual household or business (for example, if you have a house and a separate holiday cottage, please complete two forms)

Your name:

Your full address inc Postcode:

Your telephone number(s):

Your email address:

Your signature(s):

Please return your completed form to:

Cheryl Hood
Clerk to Llanwrtyd Town Council
Llanwrtyd Hall, Station Road, Llanwrtyd Wells, LD5 4RW
lwtcclerk@gmail.com

If you wish to ask for more information on this scheme please contact Reece Simmons,
reece.simmons@broadwaypartners.co.uk