

A message from East Tisted Parish Council regarding Broadband speeds in the parish

What you need to know

- The government are supporting improving Broadband in rural areas with grants to pay for installations.
- Local Companies will assist village projects, conduct surveys, apply for the grants and then arranging installation, bringing fibre to the premises (FTTP).
- The Parish Council discussed this topic at the march meeting. Phil Cutts (Parish Council Chairman) and a resident (Kevin Watts) agreed to have an exploratory chats with one local provider to find out more.

Things moved on quickly...

- Within weeks the government had announced the new package of grant funding and East Tisted, GU34 could qualify potentially. The more residents and businesses that sign up, the bigger the grant. The Government want to 'future proof' the UK's broadband capability.
- Phil and Kevin's chat with Mashood Ahmad, Grayshott Gigabit was informative.
- Grayshott Gigabit already had planned a mail shot to East Tisted residents and you should have had that recently. (A copy of their brochure is attached to this note).
- We must say that Grayshott Gigabit are just one of many providers in this market. The Parish Council have not undertaken any evaluation to say who they would back as a provider. Grayshott Gigabit are local, have brought fibre to other villages and were pro-active in contacting the parish council.

What did we learn?

- East Tisted currently has fibre to the cabinet, (FTTC). You likely pay your provider for Superfast Broadband and we think this gives speeds of around 25 – 35 Mbps (megabits per second) depending where you are in the village. From the cabinet on the A32 by the gatehouse, to your premises is copper and the longer the distance, the slower your speeds.
- Some residents are content with their speeds, others want better broadband, some want to take advantage of the grants offered.
- The government aspire to give all 1,000Mbps. The current grants would fund either, double your current speed or 100 Mbps. Fibre would be laid using the current Open Reach poles to each premise that signed up.
- Grayshott Gigabit's experience is if 150 properties sign up the grants, which are based on each home or business, should totally cover the cost of survey, planning and installation. We don't have 150 properties in the parish.
- If FTTP was to happen, at a point in the future, to get the Grant to pay for installation, each resident would have to commit to signing up for 12 months to receive Ultra Fast Broadband (UFB) for 12 months. If that commitment was:
 - Before 31.12.22 you would commit to receive UFB from Grayshott Gigabit
 - After 31.12.22, you would commit to receive UFB from a provider of your choice, (due to a change due in the law)
 - This is something to consider carefully as UFB charges are likely higher than your current Superfast Broadband charge.
- Selbourne have FTTP for some residents, so do Colemore.

So what happens next?

- Grayshott Gigabit came back to Phil and Kevin and said it could do FTTP in East Tisted if 60 – 70 residents and businesses pre-registered on their website. The pre-register is a statement of interest only, it's not a binding commitment. The Grayshott Gigabit brochure gives you the details. If faster speeds interest you, and because it doesn't commit you to anything, it's worth logging in and adding your name. Grayshott Gigabit will share with us the numbers they get, this will confirm to the Parish Council whether improving broadband speeds in East Tisted is important to our businesses and residents.
- If we don't get 50 - 60 residents and businesses pre registering, the other option is to join another local parish also seeking FTTP, and boost their numbers. Grayshott Gigabit are going to speak to Farringdon Parish Council, which in reality looks like the only viable partner. We would have to partner, potentially be led by Farringdon's choice of provider, and even then we may need to reach minimum numbers in the village to deliver FTTP within the sums provided by the grant, (ie: too few people and there would be a shortfall, grant vs cost of installation, and those receiving fibre would need to share out the additional charge). This would be known before anyone was asked to fully commit to FTTP.

What we want from you

We recommend anyone interested in faster Broadband speeds as a first step, looks over the attached brochure from Grayshott Gigabit and if happy, completes the 'no obligation', **pre register your interest** on the Grayshott Gigabit website – www.grayshottgigabit.com – go to the 'register' button, top right and fill in the contact details and current broadband speed if you know it. A number of residents have already done this.

Keeping you in the picture

The Parish Council will update you on what we learn and future plans.

More information

If you want more information about the grant, other projects, broadband speeds, we have produced an information sheet, please click here – [[linkxxxxxxxxxx](#)].

What if I want to ask a question?

This initial interest in achieving greater broadband speeds in the village is being carried out by Phil Cutts, Parish Council Chairman and Kevin Watts (interested resident). If you have a question, please contact them. [Email addresses: Kevin – k.watts.etae@outlook.com, Phil – phil.cutts@easttisted-pc.gov.uk]

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East Tisted Parish Council information sheet regarding Broadband speeds in the parish

More information

If you want more information about the grant, other projects, broadband speeds, we have copied below a selection of links that will give you more information.

There are **two tiers of funding** the provider can access for the resident or business:

The Government Gigabite Voucher Scheme
<https://gigabitvoucher.culture.gov.uk/>

Hampshire County Council Gigabite Voucher top up scheme
<https://www.hampshiresuperfastbroadband.com/alternative-solutions/rural-gigabit-broadband-voucher-scheme/>

The **provider** we are having preliminary discussions with to gain more information
Grayshott Gigabit - <https://www.grayshottgigabit.com/>

What is my broadband speed?

There are many apps to do this. I like the Which magazine app as it asks for no details. Just scroll down and click the button.

<https://www.which.co.uk/reviews/broadband-deals/article/broadband-speed-test-check-and-fix-your-internet-speed-aqNtT3s3Rlix>

Other Which Magazine information that might be of interest

- Which! Advice What broadband speeds should I need?: 'For iPlayer you need 2Mbps of sustained bandwidth to watch standard-definition content or 3Mbps for high-definition, while the minimum recommended broadband speed for Netflix is 1.5Mbps.'
- Equally if you have delays when downloading the likes of I player, You Tube, picture pixelate when downloading via wifi or using zoom or Teams type software, this could be due to either connectivity in the home or broadband speeds.
- Which! article - follow this link
- <https://www.which.co.uk/reviews/broadband-deals/article/what-broadband-speed-do-i-need-aRxZX0q3jekp>

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