

Acton Bridge Parish Council

Ultra Fast Broadband Information Evening

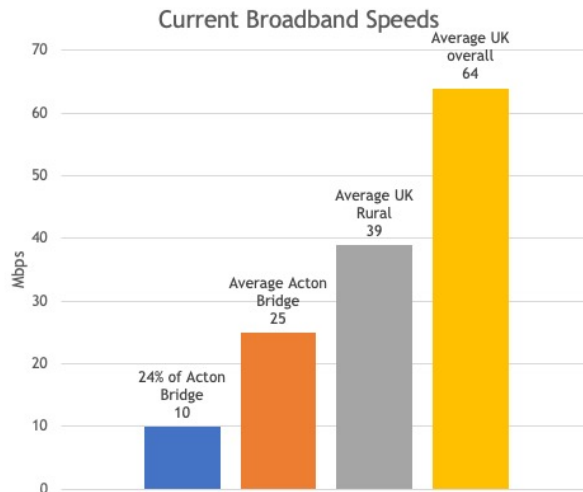
These slides have been slightly edited for display on the Parish Council website, and these notes are very much abridged – you will find contact details if you'd like more information

Acton Bridge Broadband Survey - May 2021

- 24% get less than 10Mbps
- Average speed 25Mbps

- 43% said slower than expected
- 49% said not reliable

- 65% “greatly” value improved speed



- In 2021 Acton Bridge Parish Council conducted a survey within the village about broadband.
- 24% of respondents get lower than 10Mbps. 10Mbps is the government’s minimum universal service obligation – they say every household should have faster.
- Village average speed = 25 Mbps
- Comparison to UK 2020 averages on the graph
- 43% said slower than expected. 49% said not reliable.
- 97% said they would value an improved speed – 65% said they would “greatly” value it.

What would better broadband mean for you?

Acton Bridge Broadband Survey – May 2021

“The children would be able to do their homework better (sometimes it runs quite slowly and occasionally we cannot access it).”

“Make me feel secure when using video calls for work”

“At the moment only one person is able to do something that involves video (ie. zoom, facetime, streaming TV, or playing a game) at a time.”

“Would be able to stream TV programmes in HD - a dream at the moment.”

“Fewer arguments when adult children come home and ask people to stop what they’re watching!”

“Less frustration. Sometimes can’t even connect”

“Be able work from home more effectively”

“We tried online music lessons through lockdown but our connection wouldn’t support it so all music lessons had to cease; we would try this again.”

“We would be able to stream programs/films if we wish. If our connection was more reliable we may consider a subscription service (eg Netflix).”

“Working from home was not possible on broadband. Had to use 4G which has cost a fortune. Shielding so need to work from home.”

Some quotes - taken from a selection of the survey responses which convey some of the issues residents are having surrounding poor internet, and their reasons for wanting faster.

Freedom Fibre

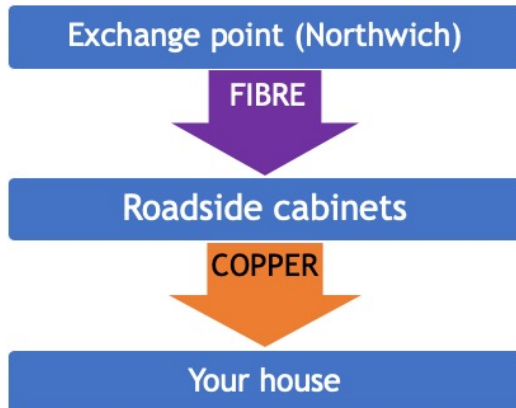
- Currently building full fibre network in Weaverham
- Start up company - founded by management from other telecoms companies
- Build networks in urban and rural areas
- Believe high speed broadband should be available for everyone



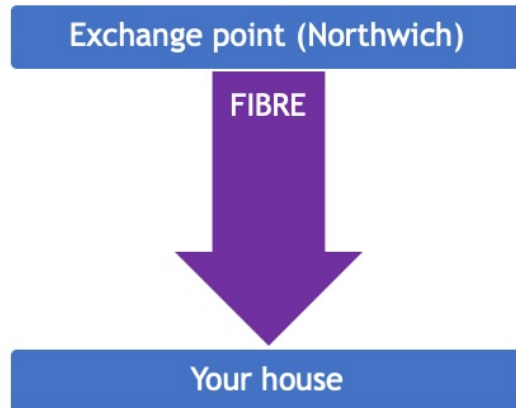
- Following the survey, ABPC made enquiries to find a solution
- Freedom Fibre are currently building a full fibre network in Weaverham
- They are based 13 miles away from the village as the crow flies
- A relatively new company but their management team of decades of experience in telecoms industry
- Their purpose is to deliver and build new high-speed full fibre networks

Old vs New Technology

**Current Broadband -
Fibre to the Cabinet (FTTC)**



**Full Fibre Broadband -
Fibre to the Property (FTTP)**



- At the moment we have fibre to the cabinet (FTTC) broadband in the village
- Copper causes the issue – it has a limit on how fast data can travel down it – even in London the max speed using FTTC is 120Mbps due to the limits of copper cables
- Freedom Fibre build full fibre (FTTP) broadband

Old vs New Technology

Current Broadband

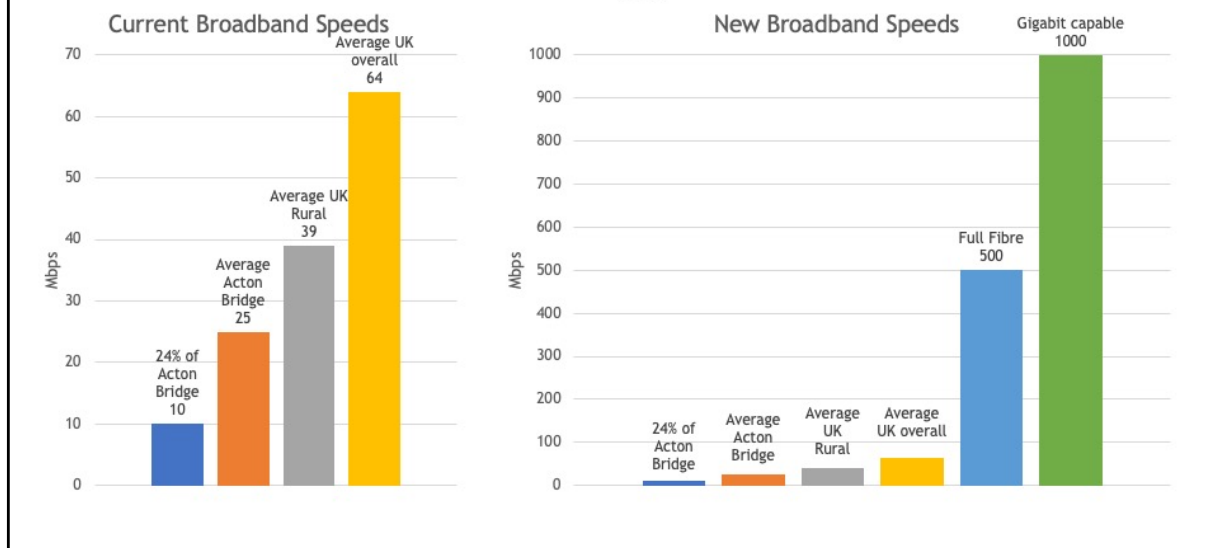
- Network owned by BT Openreach
 - Maintenance done by BT Openreach
 - ISPs (BT, TalkTalk, Sky, Vodafone etc) pay to use their network
- Vulnerable to peak time congestion
- Speed dependent on distance from cabinet

Ultrafast Fibre Broadband

- Network owned by Freedom Fibre
 - Have their own maintenance teams
 - ISPs will pay to use their network - initially TalkTalk only
- Doesn't use any copper cabling
- Same speed no matter how far house is from exchange

- Most of the UK's FTTC network is owned and maintained by BT Openreach; they rent the network to different internet service providers (ISPs)
- The new broadband would be the same speed whether people no matter is people live yards or miles away from the exchange
- Freedom Fibre have signed a 2-year exclusivity deal with TalkTalk so initially will be available through them only; we anticipate more networks would offer the service at the end of that period
- Fibre cable is not limited by speed, unlike copper. This fibre is gigabit capable, so can carry data at speeds of 1000Mbps.

Old vs New Technology



- Can be summed up by comparing graph of current Acton Bridge speeds with potential new Acton Bridge speeds.
- New network would have 500Mbps speed, capable of 100Mbps in future
- Would put Acton Bridge ahead of the curve on broadband speeds so wouldn't require an upgrade for a couple of decades
- Better broadband speeds can make house more saleable – more and more buyers are taking speeds in to account
- A 2020 government report stated that by increasing broadband speed to at least 30Mbps, house prices increased by between £1700 and £3500. Other estimates are even higher.

Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme

- Vouchers from government worth up to £1,500 for homes - more for businesses
- Money goes to Freedom Fibre to help cover costs of installation
- Need 1 in 5 households to sign up by the end of this month
- Register at www.freedomfibre.com/register - click on Weaverham
- Registering for a voucher does NOT commit you!

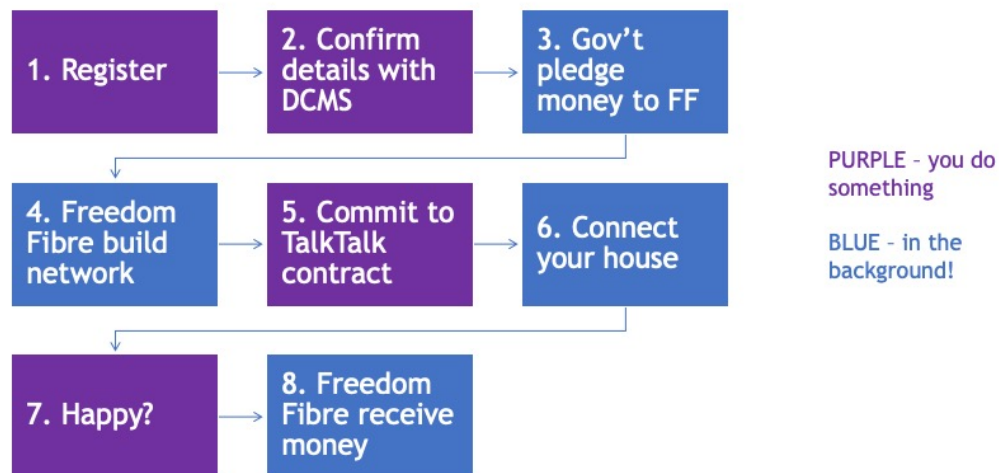
GIGABIT BROADBAND
VOUCHER SCHEME

PROJECT GIGABIT

Fast, reliable broadband for everyone in the UK

- Government are running a Gigabit Broadband Voucher scheme, in order to help people experiencing slow broadband speeds in rural areas.
- Every property in Acton Bridge and surrounding areas is eligible
- They contribute to Freedom Fibre's costs - £1,500 per household, with more for companies
- Freedom Fibre need to make sure the extension to their build is viable so need to see 1 in 5 Acton Bridge households registered by the end of November 2021
- Registering does not commit you to anything so we would encourage you to sign up

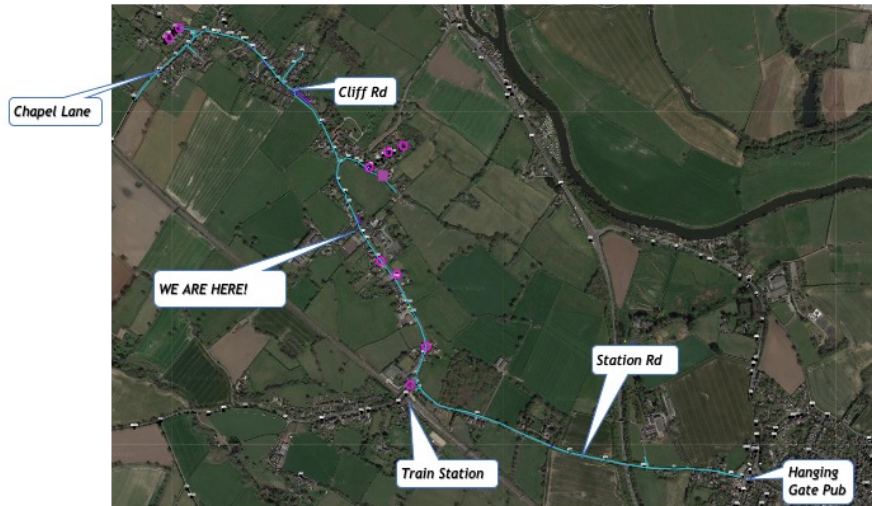
Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme



Voucher process works as follows:

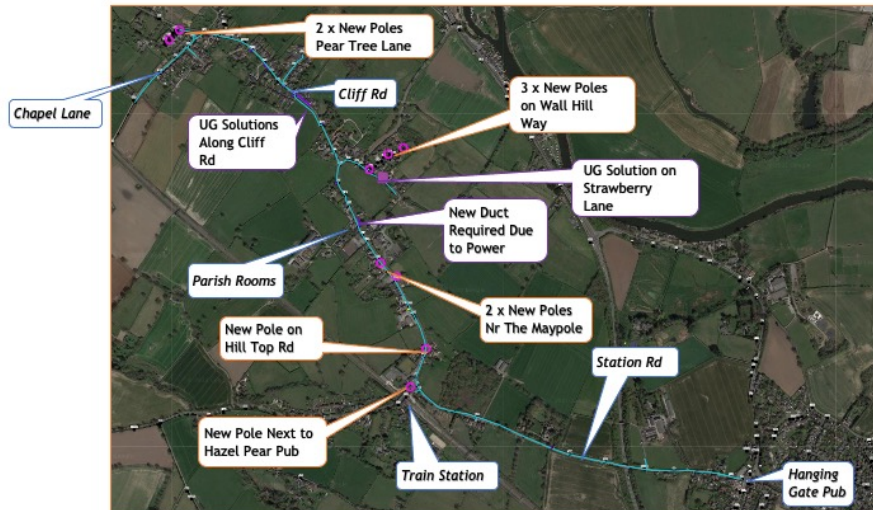
1. You register online at www.freedomfibre.com/register
 2. You receive an email from the Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and confirm your details, and pledge your voucher to TalkTalk (via Freedom Fibre)
 3. The government pledge that money to Freedom Fibre. Freedom Fibre do not yet receive it.
 4. Freedom Fibre build the network
 5. You sign up to the TalkTalk contract
 6. They connect the network to your house
 7. The DCMS contact you to confirm you are connected and that the speeds are as promised
 8. It is only then that Freedom Fibre receive the money
- **There is no commitment required from you until stage 5 – but the network will still be built if enough people do the first two steps!**
 - **Vouchers are valid for 12 months – can register now and connect in eg. July and Freedom Fibre will still get money**

Preliminary Coverage Map



- Turquoise line indicates preliminary proposed coverage area
- No area is discounted - every other area of the village is under consideration. Depends on how many households /companies on those roads register for voucher scheme
- The more households (or companies) down a road that register, the more likely that road will have the network built
- The more households (or companies) from the village as a whole that register, the more areas the scheme can be extended to as there will be more money from vouchers 'in the pot'

New Infrastructure



- Freedom Fibre use as much existing infrastructure as possible in the build – including telegraph poles and underground ducts.
- Some new infrastructure will be required – shown on map
- Pink dot = new telegraph pole
- Freedom Fibre will work with property owner most affected to make sure it's not eg. outside a bedroom window. Contact them when build starts to discuss.
- UG = underground

Network Connection to home - external



- Engineer visit required to connect property to network and bring it inside to a termination point
- Will look like one of these pictures outside your house

Network Connection to home - internal



- Comes inside to this box – between the size of A5 and A4 piece of paper.
- Picture on the right has route on top of it!

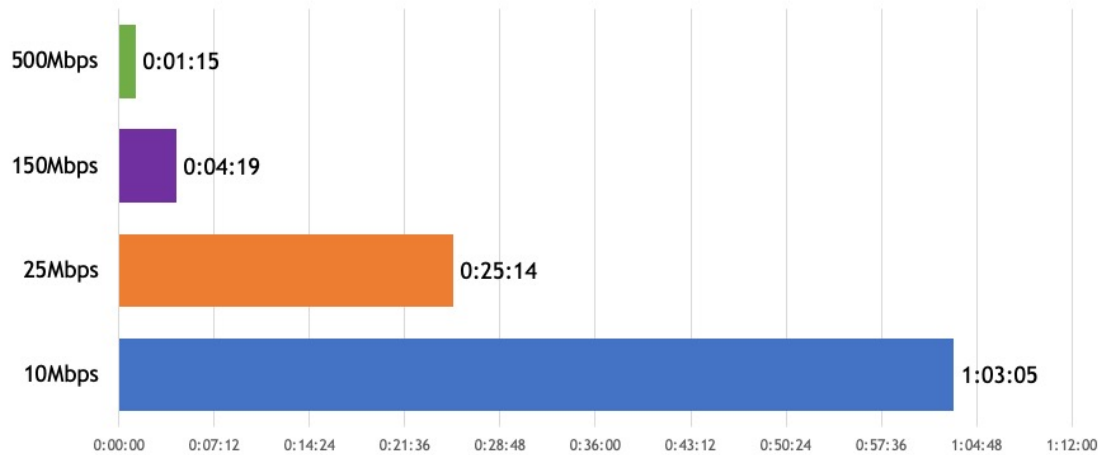
Contract Prices

- TalkTalk: Future Fibre
- No installation / setup costs
- £32/month for 150Mbps
- £40/month for 500Mbps
- 18-month contracts
- Data only: no phone line - just broadband



- TalkTalk only ISP for 2 years. Marketed under the name of their Future Fibre contract
- No installation / setup costs for the contract
- Prices correct as of November 2021
- You only pay for broadband – you don't require a landline if you don't want one

Time taken to download an HD movie (4GB)



- As an example of the difference these speeds make – this is the time to download a full-length movie in HD.
- Over an hour at 10Mbps (which is the speed 24% of survey respondents get)
- 75 seconds with 500Mbps (£40/month)

Contact Us

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www.actonbridgeparishcouncil.org

Facebook: Acton Bridge Parish Council

- Is a great opportunity for the village to be ahead of the times on broadband speed
- BUT need people to register for voucher ASAP to be able to get it
- Contact Georgina for any broadband specific questions
- Contact Clerk for other Parish Council issues
- Freedom Fibre's customer service team are based in the UK (in Manchester) and are very helpful