

SEBERGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

BROADBAND UPDATE (March 2017)

Cumbria County Council, through its subsidiary Connecting Cumbria (CC), is responsible for delivering the Government's commitment to provide Superfast Broadband to properties in the county. Although this is increasingly being rolled-out in urban areas, it has still reached few rural areas, many of which continue to have only 1Mbps or less, or even no broadband at all.

For a number of reasons, only the eastern side of Sebergham parish (Churchtown area) was initially categorised as an 'intervention area' eligible for State-Aid funding to provide superfast broadband to many properties via a fibre based network. However, following representations & evidence produced by the Parish Council, supported by pressure from Rory Stewart MP, Cllr Duncan Fairbairn, and a number of local residents, the postcode areas eligible to receive state-aid funding to provide broadband have been revised and the whole of Sebergham Parish has been re-categorised and is now eligible to receive this funding.

BT is currently awaiting completion of detailed surveys that will provide the full costs and requirements for delivery in the CA5 7HS & CA5 7HR areas of Sebergham/Churchtown, and this should be available by the end of June when the Raughton Head 4 cabinet will go into build and should be connected by the Autumn 2017. Areas adjacent to these postcodes are likely to see an improvement in broadband speeds, although this may not be 'superfast'.

Surveys are ready to be started in Nether Welton, Highbridge, Gaitsgill and Stockdalewath subject to an imminent contract extension being signed with Cumbria CC.

No funding has yet been allocated for preparatory survey work in Welton, although Connecting Cumbria has given assurances that potential underspends on other contracts will be re-allocated to this area and they will be initiating further modelling for which Welton is at the top of the list. This means that BT should be able to put this into its deployment plan within the next few months, and completion is expected by about Spring 2018.

All of this does not, of course, mean that every premise will be provided with 'superfast' broadband for a number of practical and cost reasons, but it is expected that those who do not receive the full 'superfast' service should still see an improvement and the Parish Council will continue to pursue delivery of 'superfast broadband' for all at the earliest possible time.