

Northern Fells Broadband Newsletter - Autumn 2011

NFB has been awarded Technical Pilot status by BDUK (Broadband UK). We are one of 5 community groups in Cumbria to be recognised to date. The Pilots have been invited to apply for a significant level of funding for which outline applications must be submitted by 31st October. This will be followed by more comprehensive applications to be submitted by 31st December, which must include a full business plan. At this stage we will be required to have formed a legal company or charity to manage the community project. As with all government funding, an element of matched funding will be required.

Three companies (Cable and Wireless, BT, and Fujitsu) remain in the Cumbria County Council's "Connecting Cumbria" tender process to be awarded on 15th December. We are continuing our discussions with these companies, together with others, in order to identify partners for the supply of broadband to homes and businesses in the Northern Fells.

We are grateful for continuing support from BDUK, DEFRA, and Cumbria County Council. This help is crucial in a complex process with especially tight timescales.

To further this process consultants will be appointed in October to provide specific assistance in the procurement of finance and the building of business plans. This service will be funded by The Department of Culture, Media and Sport.

The level of support received from our community during the past 6 months has been very gratifying. We can assure you that we are working hard to make certain that we stay ahead in the roll out of superfast broadband within the county. Please keep referring to our website where you can see the latest news and read the minutes of our meetings. The interest from the community continues to grow and 60% of parishioners have registered interest, with the figure reaching over 70% for 3 parishes.

If you know of anyone who has not yet registered their interest with Northern Fells Broadband please encourage them to complete the form on our website.

www.northernfellsbroadband.co.uk

Kind Regards

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