

Broadband in Stradbroke

Survey

We conducted a survey of households in Stradbroke (see attached)

This confirmed that

- 52% of Stradbroke residents have slow (sub 20Mbps) connections
- Reliability is a significant concern with 87% saying their connections are often or sometimes unreliable
- Almost all Stradbroke residents expressed a desire for faster and more reliable internet connectivity
- Reliability, speed and cost were seen to be the most important considerations

Options

We considered and evaluated several options:

A	Fibre to the Cabinet on Demand (Openreach) for groups of premises in same area using Rural Gigabit voucher schemes	Complicated, needs a lot of organisation, won't necessarily cover whole village
B	Fibre to the Premises (Openreach) for whole village as part of a Community Fibre Partnership	Openreach seem slow to engage, would likely need capital funding on top of vouchers
C	Work with a supplier such as B4RN or County Broadband to supply fibre to the premises	Appears most likely to deliver
D	Purchase a dedicated fibre link and run this ourselves as a community project	Needs capital funding and lots of work

We approached suppliers to see if they might be in a position to deliver Option C. B4RN did not have current capacity, but County Broadband added Stradbroke to its forward plans for 2021. County Broadband have independently begun their own public engagement and have indicated that it will progress the project to build stage if approximately 40% of households express an informal interest in the service.

Recommendations

The Council should support County Broadband's proposals to bring a fibre broadband service to Stradbroke by:

- Assisting in publicity
- Encouraging residents and businesses to consider expressing an interest in the County Broadband service to help generate the demand needed to bring this to the village
- Further engaging with County Broadband to ensure any disruption is kept to a minimum during the installation phase of the project

In doing this the Council should be clear that it is not recommending that residents or businesses enter into a contract with County Broadband but helping to ensure this as an option and making sure residents have clear information to allow them to make the best choice of provider for their circumstances.

James Hargrave
Chair of Broadband Working Group
6 November 2020