



Brand New Forest Update & Community Broadband Engagement Plan

Community Perspective

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Community Perspective

We'll each have our own mix of interest areas, but on the following lines;

1. Community services(especially health). Government agenda is to “digitise”
2. Entertainment/Social media; the ability to do all the things others can, at the price they can.
3. Work from home (fulltime/occasional)
4. Property owners - extra value that comes with good broadband connections

Fair support for access – not privileged. We can't expect the rest of the UK to foot the entire bill for our access, but we should expect some support, given the stated objective is to get it to everyone.

Community Perspective - different initiatives

3. A Cherrypicker

RCBF (Rural Community Broadband Fund) .
The BDUK plan would focus on more populous areas, to get “the biggest bang for the buck”.
So a separate pot of funds was specifically aimed at the “hardest to reach areas”. New Forest with Test Valley were together awarded a further £1m+.

HCC & NFDC also provided top-up money.

Aim is to take the reach to c95%, but some/all of this may have to tackle the bits that the Market cannot reach after all.



4. The last 5%, where even a Cherrypicker doesn't reach!

More money from DEFRA, supplemented with private money...

1. A footstool

The “market” – companies supplied superfast to areas which make money for them. First estimated at 80% in Hampshire, but updates suggests c75%.

2. A stepladder

BDUK core programme aimed to reach to 90%, another 66,000 homes in Hampshire. In phases, adjusting where they put the effort as they learn of problems in each area.

Community Perspective

- What should we do?

1. Work with HCC and BDUK to get what we can from the central initiatives.

They need our help to make the available money reach as many of us as possible. Keeping costs of local planning issues down, organising land swaps to help Verderers protect grazing for example.

My own estimate is that between 10-20% (not 5%) of premises in the Forest will get the 2mb minimum. In some localities it will be worse.

2. Recognise that we are not all going to be well served by the central initiatives. Also, that it will get to remote areas last, and fail to be clear about where it will fall short until very near the end – 2019 (?)
3. Organise to help ourselves to get good bandwidth and get it earlier, as other groups across the country are doing. Find a way forward to act locally if necessary, soon, or some will be left until 2019.
4. Share problems and solutions – both within the Forest and with similar community groups across the country working on similar concerns. There are other suppliers prepared to offer solutions, at a price.