Dear Kate,

Digital Derbyshire is delivering the county's biggest ever broadband transformation. Derbyshire County Council is working in partnership with BT to lay hundreds of miles of fibre optic cable, bringing better, faster broadband to parts of Derbyshire – particularly in rural areas.

The Digital Derbyshire programme is providing fibre services to communities by primarily upgrading existing BT cabinets in areas that currently cannot receive fibre services, and involves installing a dedicated fibre cabinet in close proximity to the existing copper cabinets, with enhanced broadband services being provided through a mixture of fibre and copper technology. The copper element involves using existing infrastructure (underground or via telephone poles) between the cabinet and the property. This technology is commonly referred to as Fibre to the Cabinet or FTTC.

We are pleased to advise that the Digital Derbyshire programme has upgraded the infrastructure in the Carsington area (particularly Carsington cabinet 3 located just up from the village green). This means that many residents and businesses can now order fibre broadband from an internet service provider (ISP) of their choice.

Checking fibre availability

Residents and businesses can check if they can upgrade to fibre by clicking on the BT wholesale checker link
https://www.btwholesale.com/includes/adsl/adsl.htm?s_cid=ws_furls_adslchecker If WBC FTTC appears (fibre to the cabinet) then high speed fibre broadband services are available to purchase from an ISP of their choice. Alternatively parishioners' might like to check the Openreach fibre website
- https://www.homeandwork.openreach.co.uk/when-can-i-get-fibre.aspx

I've checked the postcode for Carsington and Hopton Cof E Primary School– it highlights that they are served by Carsington cabinet 3 (a Digital Derbyshire one) and if they upgrade to fibre they could achieve speeds of up to 80Mbps. I have attached guidelines for your convenience.

Digital Derbyshire website

The Digital Derbyshire website www.digitalderbyshire.org.uk provides information regarding:

- Existing and future roll-out plans
- How to order fibre broadband http://www.digitalderbyshire.org.uk/where-and-when/ordering-fibre-broadband/default.asp
- Choosing a broadband provider http://www.digitalderbyshire.org.uk/where-and-when/choosing-a-provider/default.asp

Residents contacting Digital Derbyshire

If residents or businesses have an enquiry, I would suggest they use the website in the first instance, or contact broadband@derbyshire.gov.uk

Raising awareness of fibre broadband via Digital Derbyshire

I would be delighted if you are all willing to work with me to ensure that homes and businesses in the areas outlined above are informed that fibre broadband is available, and they can now contact their ISP to discuss products and services. I would welcome the opportunity to:

- Work with all parish council;
- Include a short piece in the village newsletter – please advise;
- Include a short piece on all village website – please advise;
- Attend any relevant events.

I look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Regards,

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