

Kentmere Parish Meeting 12 November 2018 - Broadband

As a result of the Connecting Cumbria project, most of Kentmere now has the potential for fibre broadband delivered via a cabinet sited near The Pound. Unfortunately, several properties cannot benefit from this cabinet as their telephone cables do not come that far up the valley.

To try to remedy that, we are currently exploring a Fibre Community Partnership with Openreach. This project is designed to deliver fibre broadband to all the premises between Ulthwaite and Longhouses who wish to take part. Although there are 'vouchers' available through a Government scheme, there is still a cost which has to be met by those taking part. Openreach require a legal entity to sign the contract and the most obvious entity is the Parish Meeting. We are seeking agreement for this (see below).

If it is agreed that the Parish Meeting can enter into the contract, it is planned that all monies due to Openreach will be paid into the Parish account before the contract is signed so that there is no possible risk to the Parish.

The expected total value of the project is approximately £15,000, of which £11,000 is from grants and other external sources, with the balance being contributed by the properties that will benefit from the scheme. There will be appropriate contracts between the Parish and all relevant parties.

We are advised by South lakes District Council legal officer that the contract with BT should be signed by three members of the Parish.

Agreement is sought from the Parish Meeting to grant P R Lansberry (the Chairman), I W Johnston (the Parish Clerk) and Mrs J Bettess delegated authority to sign the contracts if and when they are agreed, providing the terms are substantially as outlined above.

Jackie Bettess
30 October 2018