

Fast Broadband for Upper Wharfedale & Littondale

Since the order was placed by NYnet to connect the school to the Fast Broadband network in February this year things have not gone as smoothly as hoped for. An attempt was made on 16th April by BT Openreach to install the necessary fibre optic cable from Kettlewell exchange to Kettlewell School. This got as far as the Racehorses Hotel where they found that the ducting in the road was blocked with silt. To clear the ducting of silt requires a specialist operation to blast out the debris. To conduct this operation safely BT Openreach requested a full road closure from NYCC Highways which was declined. After much effort by Shelagh Marshall, John Roberts and the Fast Broadband team a meeting was convened between BT Openreach and NYCC Highways at the site on 14th June. This resulted in an agreement for a full road closure to take place on the night of 26th – 27th June when the ducting will be cleared of obstructions and should this prove successful then the fibre optic cable will also be installed.

Hopefully if all this happens without any hitches then the final connection to the school should take place by the 30th June.

On a more positive note you may have observed the transmitter mast has already been installed on the school chimney and preparations have been made to receive the fibre optic cable when it eventually arrives. Kettlewell can be connected directly from this mast. The repeater mast connecting the school to Conistone, Kilnsey and Threshfield has been erected and as soon as the system is live, this should move quickly to connect those communities. Negotiations have taken place with the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority for the installation of a repeater mast at Moor End Farm to supply Starbotton and Buckden and we believe that this will be approved without going to the planning committee. Negotiations are continuing to find the optimum location, to satisfy the YDNPA, for a mast above Buckden to connect Cray, Hubberholme and Langstrothdale.

The Littondale system hangs off the Upper Wharfedale system; this means that the southern part of the Upper Wharfedale system needs to be working fully prior to building the infrastructure in Littondale. Some sites for masts have been identified in Littondale and we will be checking these out in the next couple of days to see if they will work. If they seem to satisfactorily provide coverage for the whole valley we will refer them to the YDNPA for their comments.

As the current Littondale proposed mast locations all depend on remote self powered masts the approval process may be longer.

Should the set up in Wharfedale go smoothly then it would be a fair to estimate the commencement of the Littondale system, subject to YDNPA approval, to be late July early August.

Want to know more.....

Full details can be found on <http://www.fastuwdale.net>

If you have not completed a registration form on the Fast Broadband website, please do so even if you have responded to earlier emails, as this is now the final database.

You can register on the website, alternatively send your name, address and phone number to mailing@fastuwdale.net and we will add you to the list of people wishing to hear more

The Fast Broadband Team

Chris Beazley, David Hood, Peter Vetch, Chris Clark