

Dorset County Council July 2014 Report

Broadband

The latest information on the project is available on the website www.dorsetforyou.com/superfast and the public are being encouraged to sign up for an e-newsletter www.dorsetforyou.com/e-news to keep up with the latest information and register with us so they can let the public know as soon as service is available.

Some properties in Bere Regis, Briantspuddle and Moreton should have access to an improved broadband service from 2015, though there will be properties that will not be able to access the new service until 2015/2016. I am still waiting to find out the situation in Wool and other areas will report on that as soon as I know.

The speed of the broadband service for individual properties will depend on whether they are connected to a cabinet or direct to the local telephone exchange, plus the distance between the property and the cabinet/exchange; and also whether the connection uses traditional copper wires or the latest fibre technology. The aim is for as many properties as possible to have access to superfast broadband, defined as download speeds of at least 24 megabits per second (Mbps), although all properties should be able to get a minimum of 2 Mbps when the project is completed (which should be better than their current service).

It should be pointed out that householders wishing to take the new service will need to apply to one of the Internet Service Providers (ISP); it will not happen automatically, even if they have an existing contract. It will then take up to 6 months from when the contractors start work on installing the infrastructure to people being able to actual sign up and get the new service. However none of the dates can be guaranteed at this stage of the project.

Individual Electoral Registration (IER)

Registering to vote is now simpler than ever under a new online system which was launched last month by Minister of State for Cities and the Constitution Greg Clark. People will now be able to register to vote online in just three minutes by simply providing a name, address, date of birth and National Insurance number. The online registration service has been extensively tested with real users over many months and the live service is compatible with all platforms, including smartphones and tablets, meaning maximum convenience when registering.

The launch of the new online tool is part of a wider move to Individual Electoral Registration (IER), where the old and outdated household registration system is being replaced by individual registration. It is a simple one-step process of being verified against existing records and, unlike today, 80% of people will be automatically added to the register without needing to apply at all. IER will prevent fraud by enabling government to verify that everyone on the register is who they say they are.

Surgery

Surgeries are held on the first Saturday of every month. These are held at the communal Lounge in Turberville Court in Bere Regis from 09.30 a.m. to 10.00 a.m. I am now also holding a surgery at Wool in Knowlewood Knapp communal lounge at 11.30. If you have any questions or queries related to the business of Dorset County Council please come along. If anyone wants to contact me and cannot get to the surgery my email address is peterwharf@hotmail.com.

Peter Wharf

County Councillor