

Reports for Brightling Parish Council meeting 12th July 2023

This report covers 4 topics:

- Welcome packs
- Environment Strategy
- Web site
- Broadband

Welcome packs

The updated welcome pack is now ready to use, and I will email or print copies on request.

I have not in fact received any requests since the new welcome pack was developed, back in March.

Environment strategy

I have seen a copy of the Rother Village Halls Energy Project – Site Decarbonisation Survey. I have significant concerns about the accuracy and usefulness of this report and I am hoping to discuss them with RDC in the near future.

A member of Brightling Environment Group attended the Dark Skies Planning session on Tuesday 11th July. I don't yet have a report of this meeting.

Web site

The site continues to be hosted by Rother District Council.

The main contributors are me, the Parish Clerk, Jane Beard, and Chris Wing. If other contributors want to come forward I would be very happy to get them a logon and give any necessary training.

Broadband

The project to bring full fibre broadband (with speeds of up to 900 Mbps) for Netherfield Village / Brightling / Woods Corner got the go-ahead from BT Openreach on 8th July 2022. The timescale was broadly 6 months planning, 6 months physical delivery, giving an original delivery deadline of July 2023.

I have this morning received a detailed progress report. After interpreting and summarizing:

PONID	No. of premises	Area	Status
V8001	48	Cackle Street, Darwell Hole area	Being worked on and expecting them to be completed late July or early August.
V8009	41	Woods Corner	Virtually there now as well. Expected completion of 21/07/23
V9007	29	Netherfield Road	Installation complete. Quality checks in progress at 11/07/23
V9008	38	Perrymans Lane, Willingford Lane, Mount area, and road to Woods corner	Being worked on and expecting them to be completed late July or early August.
V9010	51	Central Brightling, Ox Lodge area and upper part of Cackle St	Being worked on and expecting them to be completed late July or early August.
V9012	46	Darwell Hill	Installation complete. Quality checks in progress at 11/07/23

It is not clear whether the "late July / early August" date includes the quality check and commissioning or whether it refers just to the physical build and would need to be followed by the quality check and

commissioning. I suspect the latter, so probably the end of September would be a reasonable guess for when the new services become actually available to order.

Four properties from the Mountfield Park Farm area were excluded from the original scheme on grounds of cost. After pressure from me, Openreach re-looked at this area and realised that they are much closer to Mountfield Lane than they are to Brightling Road (which is where their phone lines currently come from), thus raising the prospect that they could be included. Unfortunately I still do not have clarity on whether there has been any progress as a result of this..

Unlike many broadband projects, there is no legal contract with BT Openreach and no cash deposit has been required. In particular there is no commitment from the Parish Council. The only commitment is from individuals who have pledged that when the new service becomes available, they will sign up to take the new service for a minimum of 12 months.

Andrew Wedmore