

3<sup>rd</sup> March 2017



## GREATSTONE, LITTLESTONE & LYDD-on-SEA BT COMMUNITY FIBRE PARTNERSHIP #6309

### Bringing better broadband to our community

**Thank you** to everyone who has already expressed an interest in getting internet competition and better value into Greatstone, Littlestone and Lydd-on-Sea. Whilst the community is currently served by CallFlow and VFast, we feel that neither of these solutions offers the flexibility and competitive pricing that we need from an internet service and infrastructure provider.

Whilst most of New Romney already benefits from good fibre broadband provided by Openreach, historically they have stated that they have no plans to complete the upgrade of the seaside communities. Having Openreach as a fibre provider is important to us as they make their lines available to a wide range of Internet Services Providers who bring competition and better value to the community. Therefore over recent weeks we've been raising awareness with BT to gain their interest once more.

After establishing a BT Community Fibre Broadband Project (#6309) in December 2016, I'm delighted to say that we have spoken directly to Gary Aldred, BT Group Senior Community Support Manager, who has discussed our interest with Openreach and they are both keen to work with us to explore the potential for upgrading our non-fibred Openreach cabinets to fibre. We recognise that this project will require securing personal financial commitments from residents (at an appropriate time in the future) to sharing the cost of this upgrade and we are now exploring ways in which we can achieve this including the use of crowdfunding.

This initiative should be of interest to all residents of LITTLESTONE, GREATSTONE and LYDD-ON-SEA who want better internet speed, better choice and better value (and who may already be a VFast or CallFlow customer). Specifically these homes will be connected to Openreach cabinets 2, 3, 4 and 5 attached to the New Romney exchange.

The first step is all about creating awareness and interest – we have set up a Facebook Group called **“Greatstone, Littlestone & Lydd-on-Sea BT Community Fibre Partnership”** (it's a bit of a mouthful).

We already have over 120 members in the Group which shows that there's real interest but we need to spread the word as we estimate that we will need in excess of 400 households to share funding if we are to make this viable and affordable.

So ... if you are interested in wanting an improved and more cost effective broadband internet service, you live in these areas and would like to join in the **Greatstone, Littlestone & Lydd-on-Sea BT Community Fibre Partnership Group** on Facebook, please make a request to join, or email **John Sheridan** (lead co-ordinator) at [johnsheridan43@hotmail.com](mailto:johnsheridan43@hotmail.com) with your details. The more households we enlist, then the lower the expected costs for each household.

Don't worry - you are not committing to anything by joining this Group or expressing interest at this time. It is simply enabling us to gain momentum and support a more detail discussion with BT and Openreach.

Looking forward to hearing from you.