**Kempley Parish Council 18th March 2024**

**Items for Exchange of Views –** Information update

**Agenda Number 204**

**Kempley Community Broadband**

After a winter period of construction, Full Fibre are coming to the end of the installation period for the main infrastructure, for the Kempley Community Broadband scheme. The aerial fibre network is now complete to Kempley Parish and to outlying areas of Dymock, Upton Bishop, Yatton and Much Marcle. The service is taken from a dedicated central cabinet in Ross-on-Wye, which in turn is connected back to the central broadband service infrastructure. Three separate routes into the area are being used.

Final works to connect individual properties to the main aerial fibre network will be completed by the end of March, give or take a few days either way. Customers have a selection of Internet Service Providers (ISPs) available via the Full Fibre website. Essentially Full Fibre is the wholesaler and the ISPs the retailer. Full Fibre operate an open access system for ISPs that elect to provide services to premises served by the Kempley Community Broadband Scheme.

The works, which are being completed on time, and with excellent community liaison, were undertaken by Full Fibre with support from three sub- contractors:

* South-West Utilities (SWU) – poles, civils, cabling, splicing and testing;
* Fibre Network Solutions (FNS) – Cabling splicing and testing; and
* SIGMA – poles.

The works have involved the installation of:

* 202 new poles for aerial fibre optic cables;
* 4 miles of new ducting for fibre optic cables (6,800 metres);
* Over 30 miles of fibre optic cables (50,800 metres); and
* 402 new customers are being served.

Fully funded by Fastershire ( a joint scheme between Gloucestershire and Herefordshire County Councils) the scheme has cost over £0.6 million.

Customer can now increase download speeds from 0.5 Mbps to 1 Gbps and move away from unreliable internet services provided over the old copper wire connections. It is truly a revolution in services that can now be obtained and will transform local lives and underpin the growth of local businesses and farming interests.

Martin Brocklehurst

Kempley Community Liaison Point