

## **Tweedsmuir Community Council**

Gavin Parker – Chairman  
Brian Bushell – Vice Chairman/Treasurer  
Ralph Glatt – Councillor  
Lesley Mason – Councillor  
Mark Cullen – Councillor  
Debbie Cullen – Secretary (Co-Opted)



## **Tweedsmuir Community Fibre Project – Update Nov 2019**

Following the successful completion of the fundraising element of the project back in April 2019 the Tweedsmuir Broadband team have been liaising with Openreach to complete the necessary activities to enable Openreach to issue a contract for the works.

Unfortunately, the activities required by Openreach to enable them to issue the revised quotation and contract have suffered significant delays.

Openreach had a number of activities to complete before the contract could be issued: -

1. Re-survey the route for the Fibre to Premise installation
2. Obtain landowners details and consents for self-dig elements of project
3. Provide options regarding self-dig, including “armoured cable lay” and “wire on pole” options
4. Complete Technical assessment of proposed works
5. Produce project proposal document
6. Issue revised quotation and contract

There have been no delays on the part of the Tweedsmuir Community Council (TCC) in responding to any requests for information from Openreach. Unfortunately, despite this we have faced continuing delays, little or no communication or updates and no indication of timeline.

Because of this on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> November TCC wrote a letter of complaint to Philip Jansen, Chief Executive of BT Group, asking him to intervene and try to move our project forward.

TCC received a response the same day, apologising for the situation and informing us that our project would now be handled by a member of Openreach Executive Infrastructure Committee and they would be touch shortly.

On Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November Julie Baxendale, a member of the Openreach Executive Infrastructure Team contacted TCC to again apologise and inform us that she would be taking over responsibility for our project and would provide and update shortly.

We have now been given an update and below is summary: -

1. Re-survey the route for the Fibre to Premise installation - **Complete**
2. Obtain landowners details and consents for self-dig elements of project – **Complete**
3. Detail options regarding self-dig, including “armoured cable lay” and “wire on pole” options - **Complete**
4. Complete Technical assessment of proposed works – **Complete**
5. Produce project proposal document – **To be completed w/c 25/11/19**
6. Issue revised quotation and contract – **To be issued w/c 2/12/19**

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Whilst we are disappointed not yet to be in a position to sign the contract, we feel more optimistic that Openreach will now complete the outstanding activities in line with the timeline issued.

Despite these delays, we still feel confident the project will progress and expect site works to begin in the new year. We will be able to issue another update during December, hopefully with a more positive outlook

Mark Cullen – Councillor, Tweedsmuir Community Council, Broadband Project Team

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