REVIEW OF SUPERFAST ESSEX MEETING AND WHAT IS UNDERSTOOD TO DATE

Towards the end of June members of the Parish Council and the community broadband group met with Ian Frost a representative of Superfast Essex who is a contract manager at Essex County Council. The purpose of this meeting was to advise the Parish Council of the current position of the village with regard to the Superfast Essex scheme and to answer any queries.

Background and Context: what is Superfast Essex?

Note: Directly taken from their website.
"Superfast Essex is part of the national Superfast Britain programme, which was established when the Government recognised that economic growth and social wellbeing in Britain were being held back by the lack of universally available broadband. The Department for Culture, Media and Sport is leading the national programme through a team called Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK).
In Essex, the County Council is investing more than £51m into the Superfast Essex programme, which is coordinated by Essex County Council. The programme is funded by BDUK, Essex Council Council with a contribution from some local authorities (Tendring, Epping and Braintree District Councils) and a significant proportion of the investment comes from the private sector delivery partners, BT and Gigaclear.
The County Council will improve broadband coverage in the county so that 95 per cent of Greater Essex has access to fibre broadband (with the potential to provide superfast speeds of 24Mbps and above) by 2019. The programme is also ensuring that a minimum of 2Mbps download speed is available across Essex by summer 2016, via the Satellite Scheme.**"**

Background & Context: What are the phases to Superfast Essex program?

Note: Directly taken from their website.
Phase 1
The current rollout (also known as Phase 1) began in April 2014 and will enable 65,000 premises in Essex to access superfast broadband by the end of summer 2016. By the end of Phase 1, 87% of Essex premises will have access to superfast broadband.
Phase 2
The objective of Phase 2 is to increase the provision of superfast connectivity from 87% (as stated for Phase 1) to 95% of Essex premises, and help contribute to achieving the Government's ambition to get 95% of the UK connected to superfast broadband.
Phase 2 of the Superfast Essex programme has two strands to it – 'Phase 2a' and 'Phase 2b, the Rural Challenge Project'. By the end of Phase 2 we're aiming for 95% of Essex premises to have access to superfast broadband.
1.   Phase 2a. In March 2015 the County Council signed the contract with BT

for the delivery of the Phase 2 fibre rollout. This contract utilises £10m of public funding and BT is also investing £8.9m. Phase 2a will enable an additional 51,000 homes and businesses to access superfast broadband. Deployment will start in 2016 and complete in 2019; yearly timescales for the works are now available on this map.

2.   Phase 2b – the Rural Challenge Project. In June 2015 the County Council signed a contract with rural 'ultrafast' fibre broadband provider Gigaclear Plc for the delivery of the Rural Challenge Project. Phase 2b will enable more than 4,500 homes and businesses to access ultrafast broadband. Deployment started in November 2015 and is expected to complete in December 2016.

Summary of all current delivery phases

	Phase 1	Phase 2a
Project Value	£24.6m	£18.9m
Partner	BT	BT
Premises reached (per project)	65,000	51,000
Starts	April 2014	Summer 2016
Completes	Summer 2016	2019
Technology	Predominantly FTTC, with some FTTP	Predominantly FTTC, with s... FTTP
Speeds	Superfast (24Mbps and above)	Superfast (24Mbps and above)
Areas covered	See our interactive map to check your exact address	See our interactive map to c... your exact address

Current state of play: West Bergholt's Superfast Essex Status
Superfast Essex recently completed a review of wireless broadband coverage in some postcodes in West Bergholt Parish where it was claimed by County Broadband Limited provided fixed wireless broadband services that meet the EU's Next Generation Access broadband standard.
The review process is part of a State Aid Monitoring Plan which was set up in Autumn 2014 when wireless broadband network operator County Broadband Limited claimed wireless broadband coverage was available or planned to be made available within three years in certain parts of the county. The claim was made in response to the Open Market Review Essex County Council held to assess broadband provision across the county to identify where to invest funds to extend the fibre network in Essex.
All coverage declared had to comply with EU Next Generation Access standards. The Monitoring Period was introduced while Essex County Council, together with Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK), and independent data consultants assessed the reliability of the wireless coverage claimed.
As a result of this review, it was confirmed that in some of these postcodes there is wireless broadband coverage available which is compliant with the EU

Next Generation Access guidelines. It therefore means that these postcodes are no longer eligible for investment by the Superfast Essex programme because there is already superfast broadband provision available. In some of these postcodes it has been confirmed there is no wireless broadband coverage available which is compliant with the EU Next Generation Access guidelines. It therefore means that these postcodes are now eligible for investment by the Superfast Essex programme. For a postcode area to become defined as eligible for funding, it has to be shown that at least 10% of homes within that postcode area cannot receive superfast wireless service from County Broadband.

The Superfast Essex programme receives funding from Essex County Council (ECC) and Broadband Delivery UK (from The Department for Culture, Media and Sport), as well as contributions from various local authorities (Tendring, Epping, Braintree and Maldon District Councils), meaning the programme is "state aid" funded. Due to state aid law, it would actually be illegal for the programme to invest public money in an area where Next Generation Access (Superfast) broadband services are available.

This therefore means that although 7 out of 92 postcode areas are defined as eligible for West Bergholt Superfast Essex funding, due to the fact that superfast essex currently have a planned phased rollout finishing in 2019, if any further funding is made available it would therefore not be rolled out until 2020 through this scheme.

How this affects you and further questions

You can check your home's superfast essex status here
http://www.superfastessex.org/en-gb/maps.aspx

If you find that your home is located in a postcode area in which it is defined as 'Wireless broadband available (not part of the Superfast Essex programme)' then you should be able to take service with County Broadband's existing wireless service (which has met the superfast standard) and if your home is located in a postcode area which is 'eligible for superfast essex funding' then it may be possible that the current wireless service provided by County Broadband is not available to you at this point in time, however, you may find it useful to firstly check directly with County Broadband as to whether they can provide you with service.

If you have any questions regarding the Superfast Essex programme please take a look at the information provided on this webpage
http://www.superfastessex.org/en-gb/faqs.aspx

If the answer to your query can not be found then please use the link here to

submit your question to superfast essex https://tinyurl.com/h5azkyc

If you would like to register your interest with the Superfast Essex programme you can do so at this link here https://tinyurl.com/j2c3m5k