

# Tatsfield Parish Council

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Report Title:

Agenda Item:

Update on Broadband

8h

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Meeting:

Date:

Tatsfield Parish Council

13/1/2014

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Report by:

Document Number:

Cllr. Ian Mitchell

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According to Surrey County Council, the assertion is that 'superfast' broadband should come to Ship Hill and other underserved parts of Tatsfield by the end of June. If you put relevant postcodes into this site (<http://www.superfastsurrey.org.uk/>) up comes the answer.

Maesmaur Road, Old Lane, Ship Hill, the top of Ricketts Hill Road and other areas seem to be on the list.

If you put your phone number into the BT site at <http://www.superfast-openreach.co.uk/rural-broadband/> the answer is less clear.

It is worth contacting 'Superfast Surrey' at <http://www.superfastsurrey.org.uk/contact-us/> to get more detailed information.

The Parish Council made several unsuccessful approaches to BT about internet access on behalf of residents more than five years ago.

When a 'self-help' initiative was offered in 2010, the Council set up a survey to establish what demand for faster internet access there really was in Tatsfield. Only a dozen people responded and not all were willing to participate in such a self-help scheme. The idea was abandoned.

Soon after that, BT indicated that faster broadband was in any case on its way to Tatsfield. When the County Council then announced its own scheme to bring better speeds to rural areas it seemed that BT's plans had been postponed. Subsequently, Surrey and BT got together in the 'Superfast Surrey' enterprise to which the June 2014 date is now attached.

A main fibre cable - installed by Nynex, now Virgin more than 15 years ago - runs through the centre of Tatsfield. It comes up from Biggin via Ricketts Hill Road and the unmade part of Paynesfield Road, through the village centre and out on the Approach Road. In a letter to residents at the time, Nynex described it as an 'essential part' of its cable infrastructure' but it would 'not initially provide our services to your home'.