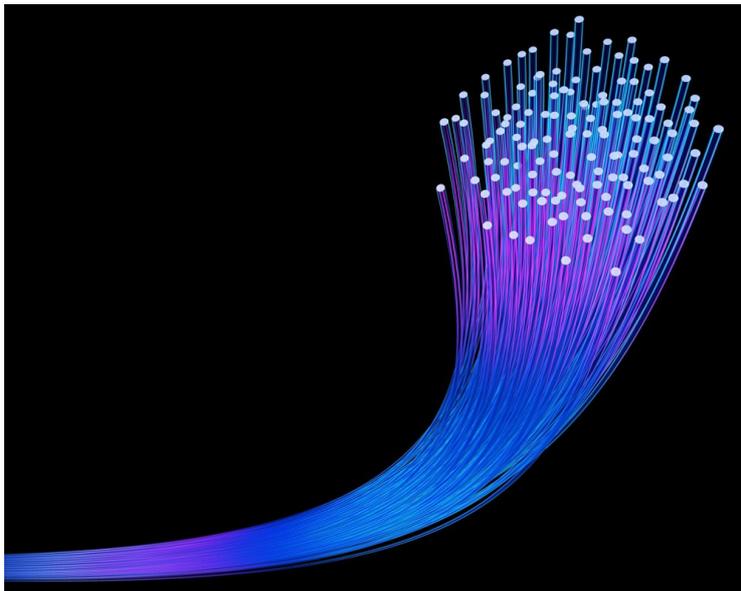


Improved Broadband

The initial survey identified faster broadband as a key improvement requirement by 14% of residents. When questioned in more detail in the major survey, the importance of improved broadband services was identified as the second most important issue for residents, with 87% of respondents highlighting their requirements.

These concerns are no doubt reflected in the increasing use of the internet from home (95%) and the high levels of competence within the community, with 78% classifying themselves as either proficient or expert and 57% using it for business purposes. It also reflects the relatively poor broadband speeds attainable within the parish, with 68% achieving less than 3Mbps. (N.B. Mbps = Megabits per second *). This compares to the average for the UK in May 2013 of 14.7Mbps. Also there is considerable variability in speeds across the villages ranging from less than 2 to 6.5Mbps.

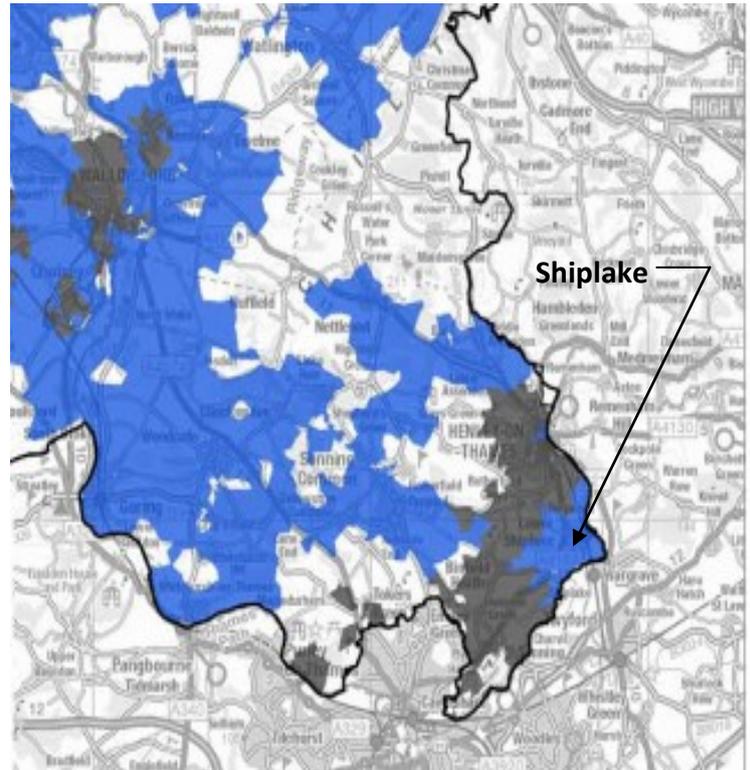
What are the options in seeking to gain significant improvement for residents? Specific initiatives referenced below have been pursued, with a goal of achieving a minimum of 10Mbps for all residents and preferably speeds nearer 30Mbps. Account has also been taken of a relative lack of interest to many residents in paying more for faster broadband, either as a one-off payment or a significant increase in monthly payments.



A bright new future

Superfast Fibre in Shiplake

The government/OCC scheme targeting Oxfordshire's rural communities should provide the best option for the future, assuming its benefits are applied to Shiplake. It means minimum broadband speeds of 24 Mbps to 90% of homes and businesses in the county by 2016. The remaining 10% will receive a minimum of 2Mbps, enough to use email and the web efficiently; a level inferior to our current services!



OxOnline Broadband Map

The map above is an extract showing the broadband coverage resulting from OCCs OxOnline investment. It is not a guarantee as it is subject to detailed planning by BT and local infrastructure issues.

The grey areas denote fibre broadband commercially available currently. Our neighbours in Henley appear to be well served. The blue areas denote OCC-supported fibre rollout by the end of 2015. Shiplake is blue subject to detailed plans from BT and possible local infrastructure issues.

* Footnote

2Mbps is good enough for internet browsing but, for example, to download a film or video for immediate viewing 8-10Mbps would be

The SVP Steering Group will continue monitoring both the OxOnline and Berkshire Superfast schemes and meet with the OxOnline project team shortly, in order to ensure apparent commitments are realised. In the event that Shiplake's requirements are not fully realised via the OxOnline initiative, the Parish Council and SVP SG will pursue funding from SODC's resources specifically allocated for shortfalls in OxOnline's coverage. Shiplake's concerns have already been registered with our OCC and SODC councillors and thereby the SODC Executive Management group.

When superfast broadband is eventually installed, residents need to be aware that the cost of utilising these services is almost inevitably greater than their current service. Current tariffs are available on internet comparison sites.

Various solutions and providers have been considered including the likely costs of a fibre cable across the river, based on the current fibre installation for Binfield Heath. Given that a successful, timely, BT based fibre solution is confirmed, the identified viable alternatives will not be pursued unless circumstances change.

house and particularly to the main BT input socket. Individuals may wish to have this checked, which can result in not insignificant improvements. However a call out charge may be incurred if nothing is wrong with the BT installation. Whenever possible plug routers/hubs should be plugged into the master telephone socket, where the cables enter the house, otherwise broadband speeds may be compromised by poor internal wiring. Also, filters provided with the router/hub should be connected to every telephone socket where there is a telephone, fax or other such device.



Patience is required in Shiplake

DIY Improvement in Speed

Residents should check their broadband speeds intermittently to ensure it is meeting the service levels to which their supplier has contracted. If not their supplier should investigate reasons why not. Also, it is not unusual that speeds are negatively impacted by the quality of the copper wire telephone cables to their