

WHAT YOU NEED TO DO NOW

In order for this to happen, we need community support to prove to external agencies that we have a community mandate and a viable business proposition.

In December 2010, we undertook some preliminary research with about 10% of the residents to see if there was an appetite in Garsdale and Dentdale for Next Generation Access broadband. This took the form of a questionnaire and a request to sign up on the Broadband Cumbria website to demonstrate community support. The results were resoundingly positive.

The work we have already done sees us as the most ambitious community-led broadband project in Cumbria. Suppliers are asking to come and talk to us. We have been asked to talk to other Parish Councils to explain how we took our plans forward. We have the chance to be a pilot project.

Now we need your help.

This leaflet is being delivered to every household in Garsdale and Dentdale as we now need to garner support from across the entire community. We need at least 50% of households in Garsdale and Dentdale to register their support in our project

Even if you were in the preliminary research 10%, please can you now register your support in this project and leave a comment in one of the following ways to demonstrate whether you believe in Next Generation Access broadband for Garsdale and Dentdale:

- ◆ on the 'Register your support' page of the fibre GarDen website.
www.fibre-garden.co.uk
- ◆ email admin@fibre-garden.co.uk with your name, address and whether you consent to your email address being used by fibre GarDen to keep you informed of progress with this project. (Please note: your email address will not be passed to anyone else. It will be used solely for disseminating information which originates from fibre GarDen.
- ◆ Leave a message on the Skype answerphone of [01274 792484](tel:01274792484) (Skype name 'fibreGarDen') with your name, address, email address if you have one and whether you consent to it being used by fibre GarDen to keep you informed of progress with this project.

Even if you are not interested, please let us know your views as they will help us provide a solution specific to the needs of Garsdale and Dentdale.

Please talk to your friends and neighbours and encourage as many residents as possible to register your support.

HOW CAN YOU KEEP INFORMED? www.fibre-garden.co.uk



Thank you for your help. Community support and participation are vital if we are to bring NGA broadband to Garsdale and Dentdale

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GARsdale and DENtdale

Community Broadband Initiative

ABOUT US

This initiative commenced in 2008 when the Dentdale Parish Development Plan identified the provision of broadband as a key initiative to secure the long-term economic and social well-being of Dentdale. In 2010, Garsdale and Dentdale agreed to work together on this initiative, recognising that the skillsets found in the two dales were complimentary in the delivery of broadband to the combined communities. A steering group called fibre GarDen was formed to take this forward.

fibre GarDen is formally recognised by both Garsdale and Dentdale Parish Councils, both of which have elected members sitting on the steering group. Members of the fibre GarDen steering group include industry leaders in fibre optic networks and national broadband provision and those with experience in fund-raising, lobbying and communications.

OUR AMBITION

Our ambition is to create a Next Generation Access (superfast) broadband network and parallel 4G mobile network in Garsdale and Dentdale that has the capability of delivering all services that customers require now and in the future.

To do this, it must be high speed (>50Mb/s at the point of use) and symmetrical (uploading as fast as downloading) so that it is able to handle Next Generation applications such as HD TV, 3D HDTV, interactive video, live social interaction, Government and other Business Services with multiple users of these applications in one household at the same time.

fibre GarDen has agreed the following objectives against which the success of the project will be measured. Broadband provision in Garsdale and Dentdale will:

- ◆ be future-proof
- ◆ be available, if required, to 100% of all properties in the two dales
- ◆ provide infrastructure which supports a range of uses determined by the user
- ◆ be under community control



- a community broadband initiative for Garsdale and Dentdale

WHY DO WE HAVE THIS AMBITION?

Superfast broadband will help to achieve sustainable communities by encouraging economic regeneration in Dentdale and Garsdale.

Fast and reliable broadband will improve internet access for everyone. As well as higher speeds, opportunities will be created for new uses of the internet. The service will support simultaneous multi-user, multi-equipment, multi-application household and business use.

For businesses, this network will

- ◆ create new opportunities that will enable existing businesses to develop
- ◆ encourage entrepreneurs and attract new businesses to the area
- ◆ lead to the creation of more highly paid jobs
- ◆ enable more people to work from home, and thus reduce the need to travel
- ◆ make it easier for farms and other remote rural businesses to keep in touch with customers and suppliers, and to submit statutory returns

For private households, as technology develops over the next few years, the network will open up a range of possibilities and benefits, including

- ◆ different – and cheaper – ways to access existing telephone services
- ◆ alternative and additional ways of accessing TV, music, films and video
- ◆ access to the developing online educational material that will become available
- ◆ opportunities for online gaming
- ◆ improved emergency service coverage
- ◆ much better coverage for mobile phones, including access to the new 4G network
- ◆ improved healthcare through greater access to medical services from home

Five years ago, we could not have guessed how the internet would look today, and the way we will use it in five years' time is equally impossible to foresee. What we do know is that it will play an increasingly important role in all our lives and, if we can't access it, we will be excluded from many aspects of work and of society.

We want to make sure that the residents of Garsdale and Dentdale are able to participate fully in the 21st Century by being able to use the internet in the same way as people in more heavily populated areas of the country. We want a 21st Century service at a competitive price.

HOW WILL WE ACHIEVE THIS?

The rural nature of Garsdale and Dentdale means that it is not economically viable for telecommunications companies to invest and install the infrastructure necessary to ensure that we have a future-proof fibre network similar to that which is now accessible to many parts of Europe and the UK.

fibre GarDen proposes to provide a fibre infrastructure that every property in both dales could connect to. This would provide a broadband service at an operational cost which matches that in commercially viable areas. This is the only future-proof solution and is essential in securing the long term future of the dales by matching the communication infrastructure of urban areas.

We propose to achieve this by securing capital funding for network construction and through competitive tendering for backhaul (access to the internet) and maintenance services. The network will be overseen by a Community Interest Company.

Community involvement and participation is an essential requirement for support from BDUK (Broadband Delivery UK), Cumbria County Council, East Cumbria Community Broadband Forum and industry partners that enable us to deliver this solution.

