



Allen Valleys Community Hyper Speed Broadband

Information Pack

Broadband for the Allen Valleys

Email B4AllenValleys@1me.net Tel 01434 685592

Follows us on [Facebook](#) - Broadband4AllenValleys

Sign up web page www.B4AllenValleys.1me.net

Community Hyper Speed Broadband is coming to the Allen Valleys

One gigabit service for only £30/month, (**that's 1,000Mbps**) full fibre to the home.

Unlimited bandwidth

No need for a BT phone line rental.

Investment opportunity shares **5% interest. 30% tax relief on capital** (HMRC Enterprise Investment Scheme)

Great news! We are pleased to announce the launch of the Allen Valleys own community Hyper Speed Broadband. We have decided to pursue our own scheme rather than waiting for BT.

This will be part of B4RN's not for profit community broadband which already has 4000 plus satisfied users. The service provides fibre to everyone's home, at speeds of up to 1gb both upload and download at £30 per month (no line rental required), not matched by any UK provider.

It also offers the opportunity of community shares with a 5% return with the benefit of 30% tax relief.

"B4RN is all about community, and we need community support in every area we expand into. This comes in the form of investors, local volunteers and supportive landowners. Communities have so much to gain; not only faster broadband for families, schools and businesses but also a provider that cares about service to its customers and returns all its profits to the community!"

B4RN is non-profit 'community benefit' society. Its running costs are easily sustained and its profits can only be distributed to the community. In the future projects like village hall refurbishments, community group activities or wildlife projects will all be able to apply to B4RN for grant assistance.

FINANCE

B4RN generates cash to pay for the initial installations by offering shares in their community co-operative.

Before any community can start building a B4RN network an initial investment needs to be raised. This is to fund the "backhaul" connection, i.e. the connection for the Allen Valleys into the world wide web and the main network. As B4RN is a not-for-profit company who are now in a solid financial position, they are able to offer us a lower starting figure. The Allen Valleys community needs to raise an initial investment of £100,000 before we can start building. This is ring-fenced for the network in our area.

- The money is an investment, not a payment, and you can get your money back later. Investments can be as little as £100 and a maximum of £100,000.
- Minimum shareholding £100 / maximum £100,000.
- All shareholders are members of B4RN. One member one vote.
- Shares must be held for a minimum of 3 years.
- Individual investors can claim 30% tax relief (HMRC Enterprise Investment Scheme).
- After year 3, interest of 5% can be paid out or reinvested.
- Some shareholders choose to invest £1,500 and claim free connection worth £150.
- Shares can only ever be sold back to B4RN at £1 each.

THE NETWORK

Anyone in the Allen Valleys from Coalcleugh and Allenheads to Whitefield and Langley can join the B4RN broadband network. There is a one-off installation charge of £150 and your monthly fee would be £30. If you invest at least £1,500 then your one-off connection fee is waived. This system can provide landline telephone connection and in the home mobile phone connection. So your BT phone line rental can be dispensed with saving the £18 line rental.

The B4RN system will be built so it can connect every property within the Allen Valleys using optical fibre directly to each house, rather than using the telephone lines. Using fibre like this gives a much better, faster and much more reliable service. The broadband service you would receive would be the best

available anywhere in the UK

With the help of local volunteers and landowners we establish viable routes and wayleaves, then lay small 16mm ducts in that new area either by trench or mole-ploughing. Fibre optic cable is then fed down these ducts in a process called 'blowing'.

We will need to site a 'node' cabinet in strategic places in the community; these are in custom built secure outdoor enclosures next to community buildings. These local nodes are always connected by two feeds into the wider network, offering resilience and continued service even if one of the feeds is interrupted.

Further 16mm ducts are installed around the community to a number of inconspicuously buried chambers in which we place junction boxes called 'bullets'. From these bullets a very small 7mm duct is laid to each and every property requesting service. Once fibre is blown into this duct and its connections 'spliced', a property can go live at 1000Mbps!

Most of our ducts are laid deep under agricultural land, but we regularly license roadworks where necessary, cross railways, motorways, canals and have even crossed under the river Lune with Environment Agency approved directional drilling.

We can continue expanding the B4RN network to many times its current size with no compromise to the quality or speed of users' connections. This is due to the amazing bandwidth capacity of fibre, and the professional, world class design of our network.

The B4RN network is built by local volunteers and landowners who know their community and the lie of the land. Each area that rises to the B4RN challenge has found it a wonderfully empowering and socially engaging opportunity. There's nothing like building something for yourself and having that sense of pride and ownership

And it's not all about digging holes, volunteers are needed for...

- informing each community and encouraging investment
- walking routes and agreeing way leaves with landowners
- coordinating site work between volunteers and landowners
- fieldwork of laying duct and installing chambers
- advising property owners and helping to install their house fittings
- providing basic accountancy and business skills
- baking for volunteers – our army marches on tea and cake!

TIMESCALES

The work has already started in creating a prospective user database and designing and mapping the network. But installation will only begin on meeting the initial investment target. Different areas of the valleys would get connected at different times, dependant on each community group and geography but we would expect that the whole system would be completed within one to two years.

OTHER BENEFITS

As B4RN is a community co-operative any profits can only be used back in the community. So any profits would be reinvested in our communities for approved community schemes. Small village schools and places of worship are all offered a basic B4RN service for free.