

COMMUNITY BRIEFING

Barbon + Middleton Broadband for the Rural North (B4RN) Initiative

Latest B + M news ...

Our achievements together since March 2016:

- Core B4RN route Casterton > Barbon > Middleton done + Barbon green cabinet live
- First 30 Barbon + Middleton properties to be connected by end February 2017
- YOUR area could be next...

Correction... In our last edition we said '*send the B4RN service contract direct to Melling before you were connected*' NO.

Here is the CORRECT advice:

- When you have installed your duct, boundary to house wall, AND outside/inside B4RN plates fitted by volunteer or local contractor, tell the local B4RN champion that you are NOW READY
- They add you to list for next fibre blowing + connection. The day you are connected to fibre + router fitted, give installer your signed contract with direct debit details + £150 cheque (unless a you invested £1500 in shares = free connection) if you want full service. *If just connection (no service) £150 chq only.*

Yorkshire Dales National Park £9,990 for Barbon + Middleton

Takes total project funding to well over £115,000



Kevin Taylor, B4RN Barbon + Middleton Community Group Chairman; Carl Lis, Chairman of Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority; Mike Kingsbury, Community Group Treasurer.

The Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority *Sustainable Development Fund* has awarded support of £9,990 to our B4RN project, to help us install gigabit fibre optic broadband. This funds the main B4RN fibre control cabinet at Barbon Village Hall, that serves both Barbon + Middleton communities, plus links forward to Dent and Garsdale.

Chris Clark, The Authority's Member Champion for Sustainable Development, said: "This is the eighth B4RN community broadband project that we have been able to support with the Authority's Sustainable Development Fund, investing a total of £81,000 in improved broadband infrastructure in the National Park."

The B4RN Barbon + Middleton project investment is now £92,800 in shares, YDNPA £9,990, + digging for shares £14,700, total c£117,490. Our project overall cost is £130,000.

2017 - YOU can now be part of the action...

Your B4RN Barbon + Middleton community project is going places in 2017.... To YOUR place for a start - one week or month soon! You will have seen much activity, digging, orange tubes and B4RN volunteers in recent months. If the B4RN orange duct (tube) is at your property boundary, **now** is the right time to get yourselves ready. BT is increasing its broadband/calls prices from April (Sky and others are likely to follow soon).

It has never been a better time to move your broadband needs onto B4RN fibre FTTP, get far better speed (up to 1,000 Mbps max), local 24/7 support and save money (£30 per month for unlimited hyperfast broadband + separate subscription for VOIP internet telephone).



We need new Volunteers NOW

We have not worn out our volunteers - they have done great things to get the core routes and main Barbon 'hub' installed/running before Christmas. **With your help now**, we can keep the initiative and increase activity on the many new spurs in Middleton + Barbon. Volunteer activities now take place Saturday mornings for those that work full time or have young families - just 2 hours a weekend will help us greatly! Community projects like these need **everyone** to pitch in - that means **you**...

BT Broadband and Calls Price Increases - April 2nd, 2017

Many BT customers may not yet realise they are about to tell you (by email/letter) that a big price rise is on the way from April 2nd, which increases both monthly call charges and broadband costs. Anyone on free BT Sport will also need to pay £3.50 per month from August 1st. All of this applies even if you are on a fixed term 12 or 18 months contract with BT. In effect, this BT price increase will *break* their contract with you - *you can leave BT without penalty for a period after your letter date* - **see details of BT price hikes on Martin Lewis's Money Saving Expert website here: <http://bit.ly/21bNFI8>**

Sky are also raising prices this Spring - details from same site here: <http://bit.ly/213Hp4S>

Time for everyone to get serious about B4RN connections now...

B4RN is only £30 pm for 1,000 Mbps 'true fibre direct to home broadband'; VOIP 'internet' phone services from Sipgate start from zero monthly rental + 1.18p/min calls. Other packages available from Sipgate, Vonage, others. All providers can transfer your BT phone number so you don't lose it. **DO NOT CANCEL BT with BT direct!** See B4RN guides here: <https://b4rn.org.uk/resources/>

Get Help For Your Own Boundary to Building Installation

If you cannot, or don't have the time to do your own boundary to building duct connection, we have local contractors who can do it for you for a small charge (depends on distance and time involved - you agree on and contract with them). See their contact details on separate document from volunteers.

B4RN Celebrates...

We celebrate the efforts of our local volunteers when they are presented with an official B4RN JFDI Wooden Spade after particular achievements.

On November 23rd both Ian Hale and Mike Openshaw (Barbon) received theirs from the B4RN Melling team:



Both Barbon and Middleton villages were presented with their coveted 'Red Spade' award the same day, to celebrate the Barbon + Middleton cabinet going live and the first actual Barbon property connections.

Where should we display our two Red Spades in 2017?

Please send us your proposals on where they can be displayed in each community for all to see.

B4RN Tips

Download 'service contract+ welcome pack' to read - from B4RN site - **before installation**. Decide on 'full service' or 'connection only' - see notes on pack and/or ask for advice.

Info about B4RN can be found on the B4RN website b4rn.org.uk.

B4RN Barbon + Middleton Media Coverage

We are starting to receive significant media coverage of our B4RN community activities in Middleton + Barbon.

Our Facebook Social Media posts have reached up to 1,000 views for certain items, plus we have received some coverage/mentions on Twitter (look for hashtag #SiliconLuneValley), on Google+ and on LinkedIn.

The recent Yorkshire Dales National Park news release issued by them on January 24th has received coverage in the Westmorland Gazette and many other news outlets already.

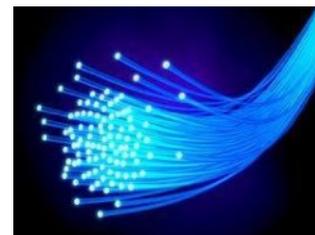
Their full news release is circulated alongside this Community Briefing, so you can read it in full.

BBC Radio 4 'You & Yours' January 20

The direct programme link on BBC iPlayer Radio is:

[BBC iPlayer Link](#)

Listen from the 31 minutes point onwards...



You will hear the progress on some of the B4RN fibre blowing in Middleton and also comments by Bruce Alexander (B4RN Melling - doing the fibre blowing), Will Dehany our B4RN Middleton colleague and Nick Mason (Middleton resident).

Note: You need to have or register for a free BBC user account to listen to this; this may not be accessible if anyone is outside the UK.

Other Media Activity

Since Autumn 2016 there has been some filming for a new TV series going on in Barbon + Middleton. This included filming of our B4RN community project volunteers and their work to install Gigabit fibre broadband to every home of course.

We have asked permission to tell you something about it, but the production company have asked us to 'not say anything yet, until a future edition of our Community Briefing'.

Of course, we are happy to delay the article - so look out for news on this closer to the Summer..

Middleton Update + News

By Will Dehany

After a month off over the holiday period, B4RN fibre was blown to the first 8 properties in Middleton on 18th January. These were mostly properties adjacent to the old railway line and awaited installation of routers and splicing of spur fibres to the trunk fibre in the Chambers in order to go live in the next few weeks. Over the next few months we hope to continue connecting other properties located near to the old railway line. *Contact me direct for advice on planning your own connection.*



Barbon Update + News

By Mike Kingsbury

The B4RN Melling team spliced 16 properties (8 properties in Middleton + 8 in Barbon) in early February, fitting routers for those taking service the same day. None are yet live.

The final ground chamber 'bullet' connections will be completed for the new batch by B4RN during February, and those customers with routers and a signed service contract will then be live.

We are hoping to make progress in the Moorthwaite Lane area down to Boxtree Farm over coming weeks. Please do join us as a volunteer, to help us progress B4RN installations around the village over to Barbon Church by the Summer. *Contact Merlin Hibbs (see below) for installation advice.*

Follow our activities on Facebook

You can follow both our Facebook 'page' (open to anyone to view) and/or our Facebook 'group' (ask to join - meant for local residents and supporters). Latest news, pictures, tips and advice added weekly.

Just type **B4RN Barbon & Middleton** into the search bar on Facebook if you have a profile there yourself. You will see two choices: 'B4RN Barbon & Middleton' is the open community page; 'B4RN for Barbon & Middleton' is the group you can join (we have 92 members currently - please do join!).

Your Points of Contact - Volunteer Now OR ask for B4RN advice!

Your main local contacts are Merlin Hibbs in Barbon: 015242 76410 or in Middleton: Michael Roberts 015242 76371.

CASE STUDY - B4RN Property Boundary to House Wall Installation Example

B4RN Barbon + Middleton

Every garden and house is different, so do talk to your local B4RN volunteers for the best advice on installing your own 7mm B4RN duct from your property boundary to your house wall. It is your responsibility to do this part of your B4RN installation, as it is your land and only you know where you want it to run. You can use a local tradesman/contractor to do it - see special 'contacts' PDF sheet.

Your local B4RN volunteers can help you choose the best garden route and best router location inside your house. They can also advise you where you can get the B4RN orange or black 7mm duct tubing and the small number of connectors you may need. A B4RN local volunteer will come and fit (or help you fit) the B4RN router backplate inside your house, plus the external grey plastic 'gas trap' required outside the same location. There is a guide on the B4RN website also (see their 'resources' page).



< When you see a coil of 7mm B4RN fibre duct outside or draped over property boundary, you know our we are close and you can start your property duct installation.



< Bring duct under your fence/hedge/wall ideally 150mm deep into garden + plan easiest route to house wall. It's good practice to insert the 7mm duct 'inside' some blue 20/25mm MDPE water pipe, to protect from spade/fork hits.



< Dig a narrow 150mm deep trench beside (or across) your lawn and lay the duct (inside 20/25mm water hose) in it. Then refill and replace turf carefully. Within weeks it is invisible. Use a path edge or garden border if possible to avoid crossing lawns. Drill hole in a wall if needed.



< To save lifting patio paving stones scrape out mortar and/or use a stone cutter to form a slot for just the 7mm B4RN duct. Ideally lay that 2-3cm deep in the slot and fill over with new mortar to protect and seal it. Remember the duct is empty (no fibre optic cable) all through this process. The fibre comes later!



< AVOID SHARP TURNS in the duct at all times. Use black 7mm duct above ground always (UV resistant). Bring duct up under external gas trap and allow the local B4RN volunteer or contractor to fit this in neatly. If in doubt ask for advice!



< Refit any slabs lifted, make good with new mortar and pointing. Refit screwed gas trap cover after attaching duct clips for neatness. Touch in any masonry paint and the external installation is done. TELL your local champion you are ready for fibre IF you have router backplate fitted inside your house already (or arrange for that first).

The pictures above show a typical local 'boundary to house wall installation' in 6 easy steps - depending on the size of your garden this can be achieved in half a day or less. Ask a local tradesman or contractor to quote for garden installation if you can't do it yourself. Ask for volunteer advice also!