



As I write this there are only just over six weeks to go until Christmas and barely five months left of the parish council year. So much to do and so little time...

Four months ago, Highways advised me that the speed limit extension in Hall Lane was planned to be in place by the end of November. With Anglian Water's sewerage project now underway and the resulting road closures in The Street already in place, managing traffic speed in the only village road unaffected by closures is more important than ever for the safety of our residents. Timing is everything and the clock is ticking.

I read on the BBC news app this week that a superfast internet connection is now one of the most important factors for homebuyers according to a survey of 294 estate agents, with questions about connectivity up by 69% since the pandemic began. When I took over as Chair, I went on record as saying that one of my priorities was to address the broadband lottery across the parish, where the broadband speed that we receive is dependent on how far we live from the BT cabinet. We all connect more devices than ever and the lifestyle changes forced by the covid crisis emphasised this. So we invited County Broadband to our November meeting to present their parish-wide fibre broadband solution and I believe that we have finally found a solution that addresses our broadband lottery. It was also good to see some parishioners there to witness it first-hand and ask some great questions.

Having already considered OpenReach's Community Fibre Partnership, the parish council has decided to support the County Broadband initiative and I urge everyone to get behind it and respond positively. With free connection, free fibre router, monthly costs starting at just £28pm, free service for up to a year while your current broadband contract expires and guaranteed minimum speeds of 50mbps for every household in the parish, we believe it's a good deal all round. You'll find a lot more information on our broadband web page;

[https://knaptonvillage.org/parish\\_council/broadband/](https://knaptonvillage.org/parish_council/broadband/)

With climate issues taking centre stage at the moment, we can all do our bit and get involved planting some of the 2000 trees and bushes that will be with us in the next few weeks. Anyone can apply for trees and bushes so let us know if you'd like some.

With the budget set and the annual Precept increase limited to inflation of 3.2% (less than £1 per household) the council is now better able to deal with issues and support parish projects, so please let me have your thoughts on what we should be addressing next.

We are also increasing our presence on the Knapton Village Facebook page, so it's never been easier to keep in touch with us and share your thoughts on what we're doing.

If I don't see you before, have a great Christmas

*Peter*