

# Sherborne St John Parish Council



Councillor David McIntyre  
4a Manor Road  
Sherborne St John  
Hampshire  
RG24 9JJ  
25<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Ranil Jayawardena MP  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

Dear Ranil,

I hope this letter finds you well and that you were able to have an enjoyable break over the holiday period. I'm sure I speak on behalf of the parish in wishing both Alison and you the most heartfelt congratulations on the arrival of Henry and hope both mother and baby are doing well.

I write to you today on behalf of the parishioners of Sherborne St John and seek your assistance in our efforts to improve the broadband infrastructure within the community. I do note the government's commitment to allocating £5 billion to support spreading broadband to the hardest-to-reach 20% of the country. The lack of fast broadband services within the parish of Sherborne St John is something that impacts our community on a regular basis, whether that be impacting on their ability to enjoy streaming services, online gaming, web browsing or working efficiently from home.

The parish council had explored applying for a community fibre scheme on behalf of the parish, but unfortunately, we appeared to have fallen foul of the mechanism with which the Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS) had used to determine eligibility. Part of the criteria required any community to not be within an "Area 2 Postcode Sector" as determined by Ofcom's Wholesale Fixed Telecoms Market Review 2021-26 (WFMTR). This meant that the criteria looked at the whole of the postcode sector "RG24 9" which unfortunately bundled in the village with all Basingstoke properties North of the Ringway North (Appendix A). This was then combined with projected roadmaps from commercial suppliers (Appendix B) that meant the village, whilst bundled in with the Basingstoke properties in respect to identifying eligibility of funding, was not being included with scheduled actual delivery of the identified services due to commercial suppliers' conception of the lack of commercial viability.

Earlier in the year we reached out to our county councillor, councillor Vaughan who very kindly put us in touch with the programme manager for Hampshire Superfast Broadband, a Mr Glenn Peacey. Through a series of communication with Mr Peacey we began to see some traction on the issues we had raised. Building Digital UK (BDUK), a department within DCMS, had identified this very anomaly that we seemed to be subject to and there is now a programme of work to capture these properties that had fallen by the wayside.

Unfortunately, it appears this cloud has lost its silver lining. We have been advised that Hampshire and the Isle of Wight are included in a round of funding, lot 27. It does appear though that BDUK have underestimated Lot 27 by approximately 50,000 properties so it appears there is no guarantee that the village will be included within this round of funding.

This is where the parish council hopes you will be able to assist. We would ask that you contact BDUK to ask for additional funding for Lot 27 and to Hampshire County Council, supporting our case for ensuring we are included within this round of action. From our analysis of the figures produced by BDUK, there are 475 properties identified within the settlement boundary that are potentially impacted by this lack of funding (at Appendix C), these numbers include the village primary school and numerous businesses that operate from within the village. As we enter a world where hybrid working becomes more the norm then we must ensure we have the broadband infrastructure to support our community. I have the utmost faith that our current government supports this, and I thank you in advance for any assistance you can provide.

Yours sincerely,

Councillor David McIntyre



Appendix A – Postcode Sector

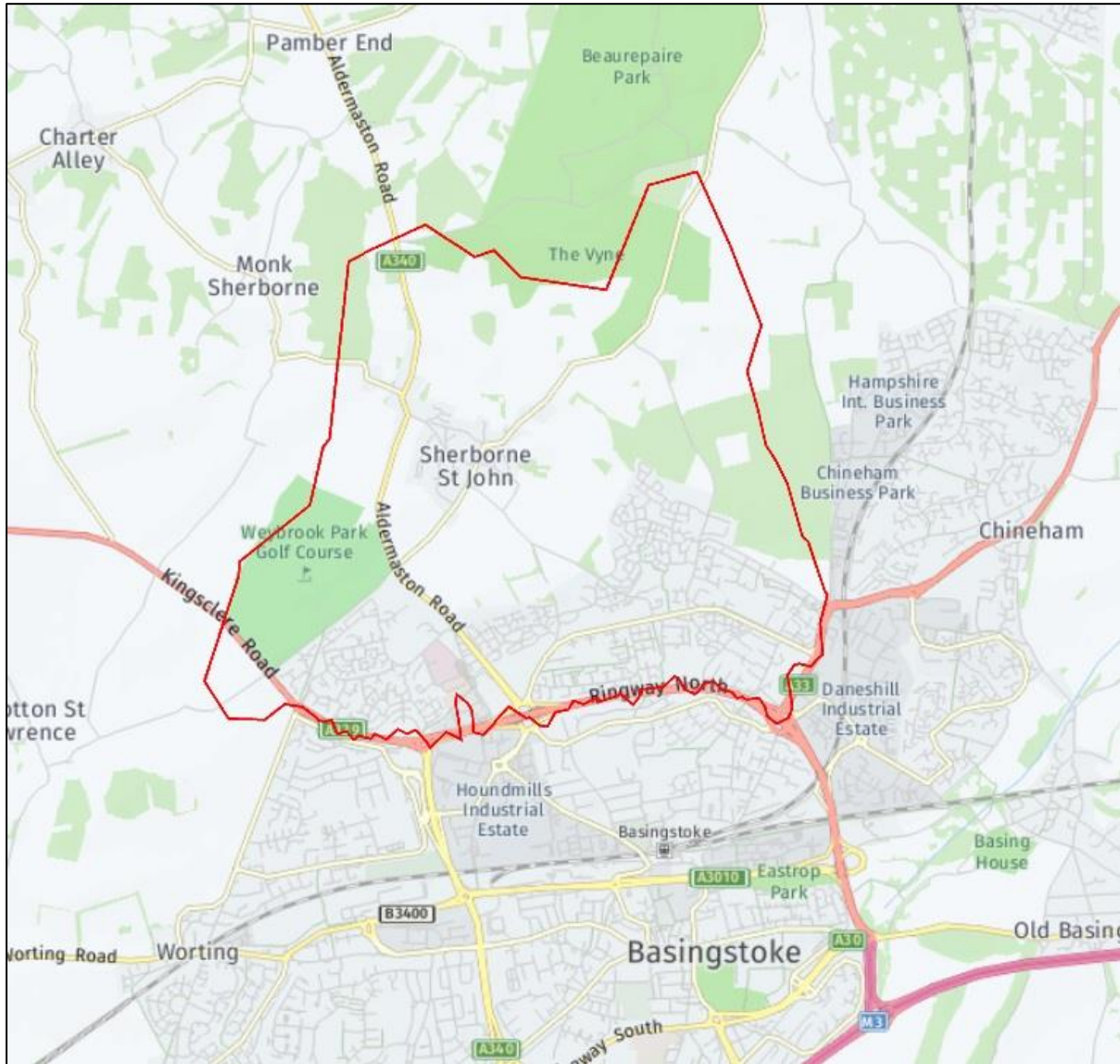
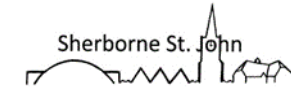


Figure 1 - RG24 9 Postcode Sector



# Sherborne St John Parish Council



## Appendix B – Openreach schedule of works<sup>1</sup>

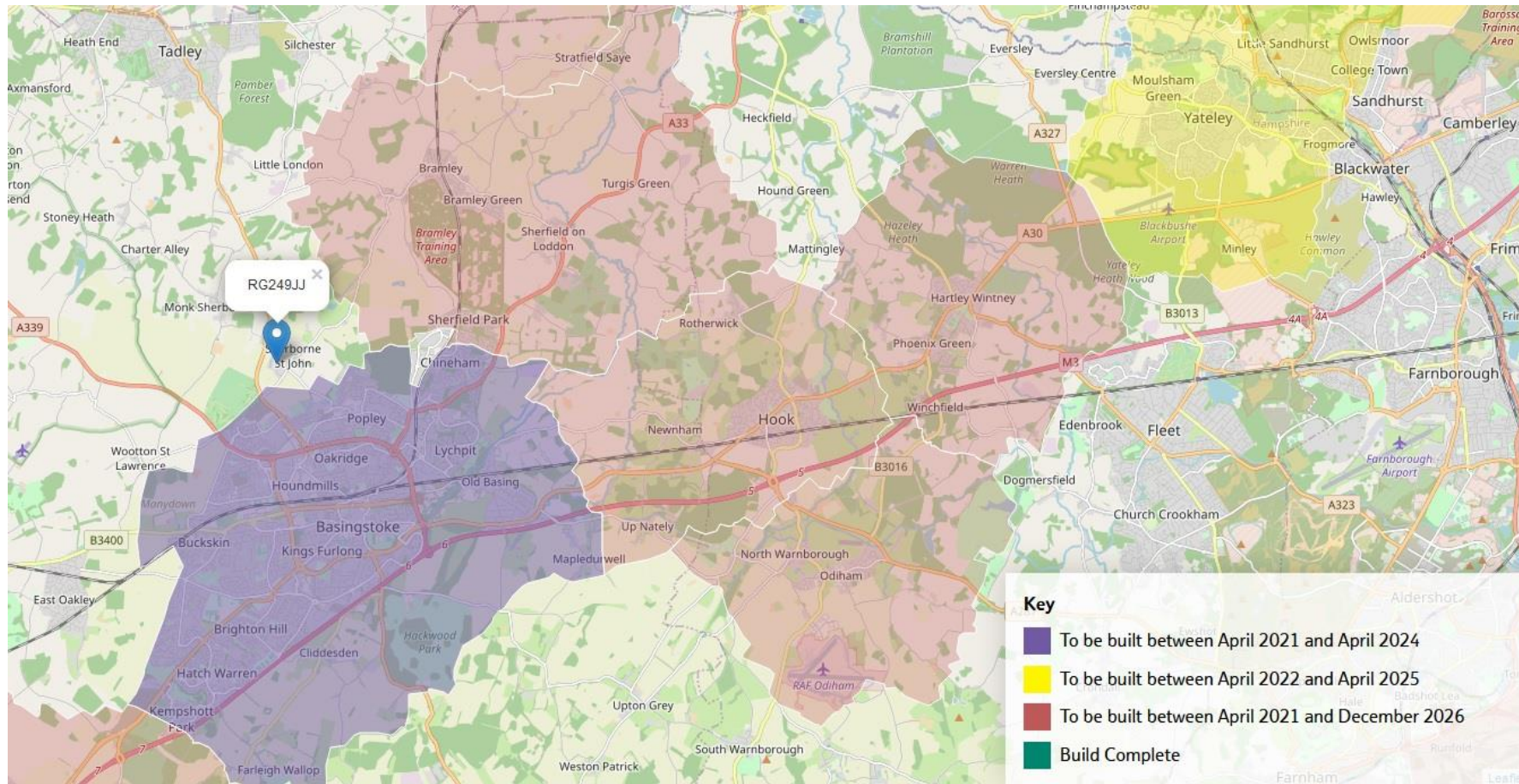


Figure 2 – Openreach projected roadmap

<sup>1</sup> Sourced from <https://www.openreach.com/fibre-broadband/where-when-building-ultrafast-full-fibre-broadband>

## Appendix C – Impacted properties<sup>2</sup>

Postcode	No. of properties
RG24 9HJ	8
RG24 9HL	7
RG24 9HP	8
RG24 9HR	5
RG24 9HS	9
RG24 9HT	3
RG24 9HU	2
RG24 9HX	32
RG24 9JA	5
RG24 9JB	7
RG24 9JD	11
RG24 9JE	15
RG24 9JF	31
RG24 9JG	1
RG24 9JH	12
RG24 9JJ	34
RG24 9JN	21
RG24 9JQ	13
RG24 9JT	1
RG24 9JU	1
RG24 9JY	13
RG24 9JZ	1
RG24 9LA	16
RG24 9LB	15
RG24 9LE	25
RG24 9LF	11
RG24 9LG	12
RG24 9LH	13
RG24 9LJ	3
RG24 9LN	55
RG24 9LS	26
RG24 9LT	28
RG24 9LU	5
RG24 9PZ	8
RG24 9YZ	18
<b>Total</b>	<b>475</b>

<sup>2</sup> Sourced from <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/uk-gigabit-programme-hampshire-and-isle-of-wight-public-review>