



## **B4RN Broadband for Strickland Ketel (B4SK)** **The Latest News - Read all about it HERE!!**

The Dept. of Culture, Media and Sport has recently and unexpectedly announced that B4RN has until **10th SEPTEMBER 2021** to submit its current projects for inclusion in the Government's existing program of broadband roll out to rural communities.

Failure to do so could mean we have to wait a further 12-18 months or that we forfeit the chance of getting B4RN entirely and wait for Openreach to provide its fibre broadband service at the end of 2025 (if it achieves its target date).

For B4RN to consider Strickland Ketel (SK) a viable project and submit it on our behalf we need at least 50% of the 580 properties comprising SK to have '**Signed Up**' to taking the B4RN broadband service when it becomes available.

This is well ahead of our expected program and comes way before we have had chance to explain how the B4RN service will be delivered to individual properties and the implications and consequences of "**Signing Up**" to receive the service.

"**Sign Up**" goes beyond an 'Expression of Interest'. It is a contractual agreement (order) on the part of a property owner to take the B4RN 1000 Mbps broadband service when it becomes available.

However, this is not the final and irrevocable act in the process of acquiring B4RN broadband.

If you are an individual customer, you can cancel your order free of any charge within 7 days of the date on which you are notified of the installation date. If you cancel your order within this **Cooling Off Period** you will not be charged for any part of the Services. If B4RN have supplied you with equipment you must return it to them. The **Cooling Off Period** is not applicable to business customers. Full details can be found in paragraph 10.1 of the terms and conditions (b4rn.org.uk).

During the next few weeks we will be distributing literature and running information and question and answer sessions to explain how the B4RN system works, what is involved in taking the service, how it arrives at your property, how it is connected and how you use it. **If you do not like what you see or hear you can take advantage of the cooling off period and cancel your application (order) at no cost to you.**

Within our B4RN project there are two distinct areas of Strickland Ketel with very different characteristics. There is the urban area of Burneside which primarily requires the fibre cables to be buried under roads and footpaths. This is a relatively expensive process. Then there are the rural areas where the fibre cables can be buried in the fields. This is a much cheaper process than for the urban areas. Given the difference in cost between the two, **an area must obtain the 50% minimum sign up for the project to go ahead in that area i.e. if the urban area fails to achieve 50% sign up it will forfeit B4RN, if the rural areas (combined) fail to achieve 50% sign up they will forfeit B4RN.**

**Please, when you get the chance (tba), sign up to ensure both you and your community have the opportunity to get the 1000 Mbps B4RN broadband service and that the school gets it free. We recognise this is an "act of faith" since you don't know exactly what you are signing up for. However, it is not irreversible. There is a substantial "cooling off" period during which you can find out more about the service (see below) and change your mind if you so wish. But, if you don't take the plunge now, you and your community may miss the chance for ever, and for ever is a long time.**

If you want more information then **Sue Caddy (B4RN)** will be running the following public **B4RN Q&A events**:

- Friday 13th August - 5.30-8pm - Cartmel Fell Parish Hall
- **Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> August – 10am-1pm Burneside Cricket Club**
- Thurs 19th Aug - 12-2.30pm - Cartmel Fell Parish Hall
- Thurs 19th Aug - 3-5pm - Brown Horse Inn, Winster
- Thurs 26th Aug - 10am-12.30 - Sun Inn, Crook
- Weds 1st Sept - 4-8pm - Hare Hill Barn Cartmel Fell, LA11 6NZ
- Sat 4th Sept - 10am-6pm - Hare Hill Barn Cartmel Fell, LA11 6NZ

**[SIGN UP NOW AT B4RN.ORG.UK](https://www.b4rn.org.uk)**