

# B4RN Gigabit Broadband is coming!

Sign up now - support your local school and community.



Crosthwaite C.E. Primary School

## Crosthwaite and Lyth Gigabit broadband project.

- **Crosthwaite C.E. Primary School** has secured government funding to have Gigabit broadband installed by end March 2021.
- The school has selected **B4RN (Broadband for the Rural North Ltd)** to connect the school to their network and then provide the ongoing service.
- This service will be **free of charge to the school** allowing more money to be spent on other vital needs for our children.
- St Mary's church and the Village Hall will also receive a free of charge service.

## Why do we need you to sign-up?

- B4RN are a **not-for-profit organisation** and in order to deliver to the school they will need to lay fibre ducting from their network in Levens to Crosthwaite village, via the Lyth Valley.
- This installation requires B4RN to make a significant upfront investment (not fully covered by the school funding) so to make this Phase 1 of the project financially viable we need around **50% of the 200+ households adjacent to this route to sign-up.**
- Householder sign-up allows B4RN to secure extra funding, £1,500 per household, £3,500 for registered businesses, through the Government's voucher scheme.

## What is the B4RN service and how much does it cost?

- Households pay just 30/month + £150 connection fee. Business rates vary and can be found here: [b4rn.org.uk/b4rn-service/charges](http://b4rn.org.uk/b4rn-service/charges). Businesses which successfully apply for voucher funding will also have their connection fee waived.
- There's no line rental, so you could ditch the landline altogether or switch to VoIP technology. B4RN operates on a 12-month contract for the first year, monthly thereafter with no exit fees.
- The service provides a future-proofed **1 Gbps (1000Mbs)** upload and download Fibre-To-The-Property (FTTP) connection, with more data than you will ever need.
- **This service and price combination cannot be matched by national "for profit" suppliers.**

## How will we make this happen?

School Funding has been secured on the basis of completing connection to school by 31st March 2021. To achieve this a group of local volunteers have been mobilised to:

- Discuss and agree the exact ducting route with local landowners, gaining their permission to allow the ducting to be laid on their land and their wider support for the project. The ducting needs to be started well before the end of the year to meet the tight timescales so discussions have already started and so far have been very positive.
- Launch a campaign to inform local parishioners about the opportunity and gain sign-up of the 200+ households on the initial route. **It is intended that the rest of the parish will be implemented after the initial phase to the school is complete.**
- We aim to use leaflet drops, the local parish website, Social Media (**Facebook: B4RN 4 Crosthwaite**), existing community newsletters etc. to keep parishioners aware of progress.

- Liaise with our allocated B4RN coordinator and ensure that all aspects of the project are managed effectively.

## What can you do to help?

- 1.** Go to [b4rn.org.uk/getb4rn](https://b4rn.org.uk/getb4rn) and enter your postcode. If you are able to receive service in the first Phase it will let you proceed to complete a form that registers your interest in the B4RN service and allows them to request a government voucher on your behalf to gain the funding required. **Note: By doing this you are NOT signing a contract. You are just showing an intention to take a connection from B4RN in the future and registering your support for the Crosthwaite and Lyth scheme. You can change your mind with no obligation or penalty at any time after you complete the form. So please sign up today.**
2. Investment in the form of purchasing shares also form part of the funding. Shares can be purchased in amounts between £100 and £100,000. When you purchase shares you can request that the amount you invest is held against the Crosthwaite and Lyth project. This will help our funding. If you invest £1,500 your £150 connection fee will be waived. Investment above this amount up to £6,000 can gain you up to 4 free connections that you can donate to other people or organisations if you wish. Further details on this investment option can be found on the B4RN website in the “resources” section.
3. We are **looking for more local volunteers** to help make this project a success. If you are interested in finding out more then please email [swren@crosthwaiteprimary.net](mailto:swren@crosthwaiteprimary.net).

**Please act now to support your local school and our community.**