

Since the last meeting of the Parish Council on October 2nd, a meeting was organised for the Chairman to meet with the NCC Director, Tony Ciaburrow at County Hall. The meeting took place on October 16th and was also attended by Cllr. Gonzales deSavage, who is the Councillor responsible for the SF Broadband programme. All the issues germane to BT connecting the whole of Grange Park with Super Fast fibre optic Broadband were discussed. Part of Grange Park is already connected to SF Broadband.

BT consider that the required technical solution will be expensive. This in part includes the removal of TPON and BT had gone on to say that it is no longer commercially viable for it to deliver a solution without significant public sector "gapfunding". NCC has required BT to work up and provide evidence to justify the estimate of £500,000. The report is still awaited from BT. On receipt it will be examined by the NCC Broadband team and NCC will respond. This is clearly a very significant sum for just one community.

In the meantime NCC has indicated a contribution of £200,000 from the County Council. The remainder would be sought from the District Council, SNC, and a contribution from Grange Park Parish Council. It was agreed that the Chairman would speak to the two newly elected District Councillors for Grange Park and request an early meeting with the SNC Leader and portfolio holder to lobby for the necessary financial support. When the position of SNC is made clear- and the extent of the support for Grange Park – we will be able to agree the best way forward, including all the options, and the timetable.