

## Annual Report – Year ending 31 May 2015

As Chairman of Great Asby Broadband, it is my pleasure to deliver this annual report to our members and subscribers. It relates to the period 1 June 2014 to 31 May 2015 and reports on the company's activities during that period.

### Business model

The business model adopted by the company is one where the organisation focuses on its core purpose (to deliver broadband access to the internet to as many Great Asby households and businesses as possible) and does so in a way that is financially viable but is non-profit making. To that end the company is incorporated as a community interest company. It charges its subscribers a one-off connection fee and a monthly subscription, meets the cost of its regular outgoings, and builds up a capital reserve for the purposes of network maintenance and investing in network development. It does not pay a dividend or any emoluments.

### Board of directors

The board of directors has consisted of:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Office</b>	<b>Appointed</b>	<b>Remuneration</b>
Miles Mandelson	Chairman	31 May 2007	Nil
John Bevan	Company Secretary	31 May 2007	Nil
Elizabeth Parkin	Treasurer	31 May 2007	Nil
Barbara Allen	Director	2 Oct 2008	Nil
Andrew Savage	Director	27 Oct 2012	Nil
Paul Tarney	Director	27 Oct 2012	Nil

### Subscribers and Members

Great Asby Broadband continues to recruit new subscribers and members. A small number of subscribers who are resident for less than six months in the year receive a 50% discount on their subscriptions.

<b>Status</b>	<b>No. at 1 June 2014</b>	<b>No. at 31 May 2015</b>	<b>Percent change</b>
Subscribers	85	90	+6%
of whom part-time	7	11	+57%
Company Members	34	35	+3%

The number of subscribers shows a modest net increase of five (6%) from the previous year. The number of members has increased by one (6%).

The basic subscription has remained at £26 per month. Discounts for part-time residents and hosts of mesh-boxes have continued to be applied. The facility that enables a discounted paid-for permanent connection to holiday accommodation continues.

### **Financial status**

The Treasurer will present the financial accounts for the year separately. Overall the financial status of the company has remained stable and the company's reserves at year-end remain at a safe level.

The Board will continue to review the financial status of the company so as to maintain a healthy balance between income and expenditure such that, so far as is possible given calls on the reserves for network development and maintenance, adequate reserves are maintained and subscription rates are set at a reasonable level.

### **Backhaul provision**

Activity on the network has shown a general increase so we monitored the effect on performance and increased the purchased bandwidth where necessary to a level that remains affordable. The rate limit applied to individual subscriber connections remained at 18Mbps and there have been no adverse issues with performance during the reporting year.

### **Technical support**

Great Asby Broadband undertakes to provide limited technical support to its subscribers in order to establish and maintain their connection to the internet. A total number of 55 call-outs was logged during the year. We continue to engage The Networking People Ltd (TNP) in the provision of specialist technical support which remains of a good standard.

### **Message service**

During the year Great Asby Broadband has continued to operate its message service and we are pleased to find it well used by the community.

### **Broadband developments in Cumbria**

The past year has seen the further development of broadband issues in Cumbria in which Great Asby Broadband has continued to play its part. With the Parish Council's endorsement, we have represented Asby Parish at the East Cumbria Community Broadband Forum (ECCBF) and at the Cumbria County Council (CCC) Hub Co-ordinators Group. Regular reports on developments are made to Asby Parish Council.

During the reporting year work has continued on Phase One of the Connecting Cumbria Superfast Broadband roll-out and significant progress has been made in bringing fibre optic cable to exchanges around the county and enabling local cabinets to deliver superfast services to premises over the copper telephone line. In the case of Great Asby we were pleased to announce to the community in April 2015 that a fibre to the premises (FttP) network is to be implemented as part of the Connecting Cumbria Programme and that around 90% of properties would be served. It is expected that the implementation will be

completed by the end of November 2015 when hopefully orders for the new service can be submitted by individual householders.

GAB directors continue to work closely with BT, both in monitoring progress with the FttP roll-out and in identifying the needs of outlying properties that are “connectable” but likely to incur considerable excess charges to connect due to their distance from the nearest connection point. In respect of the latter it is hoped that a detailed proposal will be considered for partial funding under Phase Two of the Connecting Cumbria Programme.

### **Winding-up of Great Asby Broadband**

In anticipation of a commercially delivered high speed broadband service in Great Asby and the migration of subscribers to the new service, the Directors have begun to plan for the systematic wind-down of the GAB broadband service to the point when it will cease to operate and the company will be dissolved. During this process, the company’s finances will be managed to maintain the GAB network in stable operation as subscribers transfer to commercial providers. It was never anticipated that the GAB network, run as it is by volunteers, could ever be viable as a long-term solution and it was only intended to operate as a stop-gap until a commercially delivered service (for which we have campaigned from the outset) became available.

### **Conclusion**

The past year has been fairly busy for the company and its directors. They have continued their involvement in the wider initiatives and debates concerning NGA broadband in the county and have striven to take any opportunities that arise to improve the quality of broadband services in Asby Parish now and in the future. With an assured backhaul supply of adequate bandwidth available, performance of the GAB network has generally been sufficient to meet the needs of our subscribers.

With the advent of a commercially delivered superfast broadband service, Great Asby Broadband is entering the final stage of its existence during which we will endeavour to manage the transition so as to maintain service continuity. We will also work with subscribers and others in outlying properties to try and achieve acceptable and affordable solutions for them.

As ever, I should like to thank the directors of Great Asby Broadband for their valued input and commitment, and our external partners TNP Ltd and the Asby Village Hall Committee for their services and support.

**Miles Mandelson**  
**Chairman**

2 November 2015

[www.gabroadband.net](http://www.gabroadband.net)

## **Annex 1: The company at 31 May 2014**

### **The Board of Directors**

Chairman: Miles Mandelson

Company Secretary: John Bevan

Treasurer: Elizabeth Parkin

Director: Barbara Allen

Director: Andrew Savage

Director: Paul Tarney

Webmaster: John Bevan

Local technical support: Miles Mandelson, John Bevan, Andrew Savage

### **External Partners**

Main network host: Asby Village Hall

Backhaul provider: The Networking People Ltd

Specialist technical support provider: The Networking People Ltd

Bank: HSBC plc

Accountants: Brosnans Chartered Accountants Limited