



Questions and Answers...

What is the B4RN network?

Broadband for the Rural North started a few years ago to bring fibre optic hyperfast broadband to communities out of reach of the standard BT fibre enabled service. It is recognised as one of the best and fastest broadband services in the UK. B4RN is a scheme for communities by communities.

Who is LEWFA Hyperfast?

Local people like you. Volunteers from the five communities have formed a planning group to devise and coordinate the installation of the fibre cabling through Lawkland and Austwick Parishes. Newsletters and other publicity have been prepared and delivered by LEWFA volunteers. We also need people to invest in the project, help dig trenches and co-ordinate the lines to connect properties. See the website for more details on how you can do this.

Can you connect to my property?

There are different ways to connect the line no matter what conditions prevail. If you want hyperfast broadband, B4RN can connect you. Provision is planned for every property to be connected if they wish to be.

Do I have to connect to the scheme?

No. The connection is there for you or future owners - evidence is that a good broadband connection can enhance your property price

How is all this paid for?

The project depends on local people investing in the infrastructure but you don't have to invest to connect to the service. There are several incentives to encourage you to do so. You could invest anything from a few hundred pounds upwards in shares or as loans in B4RN; this is ring-fenced for the LEWFA project. Incentives include interest currently higher than high street lenders, 30% tax relief if applicable and a free connection. LEWFA is finalising financial packages - see the INVEST page on our website. *(Please seek independent financial advice before making any investment)*



Do I have to change my email address?

In most cases you can carry on with your existing email address. LEWFA technical volunteers would be able to advise you on this. If you are an ACBA member, you should be able to transfer it to the B4RN service

How much does it cost?

Subscribers pay a one off connection fee of £150, then a monthly charge of £30.

Are there any grants available to pay for this?

We are investigating the Government's Connection Voucher scheme for registered businesses.

Can I use the scheme for phone calls as well?

Yes, for an additional charge of about £7 a month on the Vonage system. You can then cancel your BT landline but keep your existing number. The broadband and phone "package" using B4RN and Vonage is about the same as BT or other services

Will the trenches cross my property?

Liaison with landowners is an integral part of the planning. Landowners are asked to give wayleaves - formal permission - to LEWFA and B4RN to operate across their land. No trench is dug anywhere without landowner permission.

Can I dig my own trenches?

If you have the skills and machinery, yes you can, in co-ordination with LEWFA. In fact, £1.50 per metre in shares is payable to people who dig the trenches on behalf of LEWFA. You can volunteer on Digging page on the website



There's BT superfast fibre broadband in Austwick - why can't I use that?

You can. Costs are similar to those for the LEWFA B4RN scheme. B4RN download and upload speeds are 1000mb with unlimited usage. Compare that to the small print of other offers. BT supplies fibre to The Green Box in Austwick, and then on to houses via traditional copper wire - if you use this, the distance you are from The Green Box will affect the speed of service you receive.

I'm happy with what I've got - why should I change?

You don't have to, but remember the frustrations of Dial-up internet before Broadband? Technology and our needs change. Fast internet is essential for businesses, watching TV and films online, using Smart TVs, skypeing family; a couple of teenagers online in the household or next door can slow things to a stop. Many people in the LEWFA area just can't use their broadband for these things. B4RN will provide a fast, efficient service across the area.

I use ACBA for internet at the moment. Why should I pay more?

The ACBA Committee have advised their members that they fully support the B4RN project for our communities because they see it as a way to ensure future security of 'broadband supply' with greatly enhanced capability.