

19<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Resident

As one of the project partners of the Mobile Access North Yorkshire (MANY) project, we are writing to tell you how you can become involved in the project.

The MANY project is part of the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport 5G Testbed and Trials initiative. It is researching the latest technology to determine if it can deliver ultra-fast broadband and mobile connectivity in rural areas on a cost effective basis. It is a research project, but if successful, it will hopefully lead to a permanent commercial service for the area.

5G stands for 5<sup>th</sup> Generation of connectivity equipment. This project uses newly available technology that works within frequencies already used throughout the UK to connect areas, which could not previously access broadband and mobile signals.

Your area has been identified as a key location in North Yorkshire that could benefit from digital connectivity. We are writing to all residents to inform you about two MANY activities that are running in parallel, which you are invited to become involved with:

1. **Community engagement** – This is an opportunity for you to learn more about the project, what it is trying to achieve and why, and will provide you with an opportunity to voice your views at meetings hosted by Community First Yorkshire (please see invitation enclosed)
2. **Research interviews** – Run by Lancaster University Management School, these are separate from the community engagement activity. Research interviews aim to look at peoples' individual experiences of living and working in a rural setting where the connectivity is, at best, patchy. We want to understand how individuals manage in their everyday lives with the current levels of connectivity that they have; where it works, where it does not and what the consequences of this are. We want to be inclusive; therefore, are keen to hear from people that really want connectivity, those who do not, and/or have questions about it. We want to hear from a range of people across the community.

Lancaster University Management School (LUMS) is an academic partner of the MANY project. Our role is to understand the potential and actual impact of connectivity technologies on rural communities and business. To do this we are in the process of carrying out an independent research study that been approved through the Lancaster University Faculty of Arts and Social Science and Lancaster University Management School Research Ethics Committee.

We are keen to interview community members to understand how new connectivity technologies have the potential to help you – as a resident or business owner. As a result of being part of this study, we also hope to identify any needs for digital support and offer opportunities to you. One of these is to try out new technology, however, this is optional, you can simply tell us your thoughts so we gain the best understanding from a range of community voices.

If you would like to take part, we can give you more information about how the interview works and how we use and store the information you give us. You can stop the interview or withdraw from the study at any time, should you change your mind.

If you'd like to have a conversation with a researcher, to explain your situation, your needs, your concerns and hopes, then please do get in touch via email at [info@mobileaccessnorthyorkshire.co.uk](mailto:info@mobileaccessnorthyorkshire.co.uk) or call us on 0300 400 4444 and leave your name and number and we will be in touch.

Yours sincerely



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