

NBG Report for KCC Meeting 16th Dec 2015

There are only a few specific updates to provide, however there are some that may provide more source for optimism through 2016 and beyond.

- Broadband cabinet E1 (at Blane Smithy) now taking orders – if you are connected through that cabinet then contact your ISP to see how you can get NGB. We believe 49 premises are connected through this cabinet, with about 26 close enough to get NGB, and of these 26, 7 being close enough to fall within the top speed band of above 38Mbps;
- Cabinet E3 (at the top of Station Road) is not yet accepting orders;
- Blanefield cabinet 1 (at Netherblane) is also live and accepting orders;
- Planning permission sought by BT for new cabinet opposite 1 Crosshead Road (this is expected to allow some of the EO premises to get NGB);
- Further premises have been connected to ISDN2+;
- Stirling Council has appointed someone to provide improved liaison with the Digital Scotland programme with a proposed start date of 14th Dec;
- Confirmation from Councillor Muirhead that he has initiated the new SC appointee to meet KCC, confirmed by Gerard O’Sullivan;
- Meeting arranged on 18th Dec through Bruce Crawford with Shaun Marley of CBS (Community Broadband Scotland) and Duncan Nisbet of Digital Scotland for KBG to discuss the local situation in Killearn and especially clarifying the EO proposal. An additional meeting on the 18th has been arranged by Stuart Thomson (from the Kippen Broadband Group) with Bruce and Steven Paterson to discuss a wider remit across the whole of Stirlingshire as the issues are similar, and is expected to cover alternative solutions. A KBG representative may attend;
- Kippen already have an EO cabinet installed and have been experiencing some issues that will form part of the above meeting that relate to distance and expected improvements not being fulfilled and even affecting non-NGB premises;
- Stuart Thomson, with contributions from ourselves and various other groups, has produced a summary of the situation for this new appointee as seen from the service users’ perspective setting out the requirements for the Communications Infrastructure in Rural Stirlingshire;
- BT have been asked to produce a report to clarify which postcodes will be included in the current NGB programme, however currently it seems this information will only be made available to CBS and will not be complete until Jan;
- There is some extension of the commercial wireless service further west to provide a wireless-based backbone. The concept of an ‘open system’ wireless project is under discussion and a project, apparently similar in concept, is under way in Fife supported by CBS;
- The former BAG (Broadband Advisory Group) is to be reformed with a more active remit to work with the new SC appointee to “get the problem sized, liaise with key people, keep up to date and share information, and support delivery of solutions”;
- David Cameron confirmed in Parliament on 7th Nov confirmed the Government would introduce a USO (Universal Service Obligation) of a minimum of 10Mbps service available to all by 2020. Currently there is only a USO to provide “functional” internet access together with a newer USC (Universal Service Commitment) of 2Mbps for all;
- There is an attempt to improve Mobile Telephony as part of broader solution options;
- Continuing awareness is being provided to other CCs via Helen Geddes;
- KCC website has been updated with Open Day material and related links;
- Ofcom are promoting an app for tablets & phones (Android & iOS) to check your Wi-Fi signal and help you make simple improvements;
- No new information bulletins from Digital Scotland or BT;
- There has been an initial KCFC CAP (Action Plan) meeting & the next CAP-IMP (Implementation) meeting is scheduled for early Jan. KBG will be represented;
- Updates will continue to be provided via the KCC website and the KCC Update Newsletter – if you are on the KCC mailing list.

Doug Ashworth
Chair, Killearn Broadband Group