NBG Report for KCC Meeting 21 Sept 2016

Over the period of the summer recess, BT Openreach has continued with work on the local exchanges and a cabinet near Boquhan, on the Balfron exchange, is now live. Unfortunately other upgrades have slipped to later in the year, or into Spring 2017. Better news is that the Scottish Government has set a target to deliver 30Mbps to 100% of premises by the end of the current term (2021). A report, expected early next year, is underway to outline how this might be achieved and to get some projects started immediately. It is already being recognised, however, how challenging this will actually be and doubts are being expressed as to whether it can be fully achieved. A report by the Scottish Rural Action Group highlighted both the need for this type of infrastructure, the size of the problem and some suggested ways to make progress. In Killearn itself nothing much has changed, however Stirling Council are planning to run another Supplier Event to encourage residents and businesses to meet potential solution providers and discuss how they can improve their situation.

- Work has still not started yet on the Crosshead Rd cabinet and it now appears that one suggested at a location near Baptiston Farm is more advanced;
- The cabinet on the Boquhan estate is now live and accepting orders;
- The fibre cabinet in Buchlyvie appears finished but is not yet live;
- Digital Scotland has updated their WhereandWhen website to show the roll-out process in a similar manner to the BT Openreach WhereandWhen website. This allows a clearer view of the upgrade process. Premises shown in the early process stages however do not appear to be consistent with other available information;
- Digital Scotland are currently creating the R100 requirement report however the exact scope is reliant on clarification coming from BT Openreach as to exactly what the current programme, plus the Gainshare addition, will deliver. The report is expected by the end of 2016, when it will go out for Open Market Review (where potential suppliers will see what is required) and then the first contracts under R100 might be awarded. Other positive elements are that the definition will be at premises-level rather than simply to postcode-level, and that the need for greater transparency in contract operation is well recognised;
- Our mobile phone masts are in the process of being upgraded to 3G, possibly even 4G, and services should be available by the start of Winter. This, together with Vodaphone's improved data package, may make a mobile-based solution more viable for some premises remote from the exchange;
- Stirling Council has given their support to erecting a wireless supply mast on Ben Gullipen near Callendar to feed the nearby Strathyre (Trossachs) area. This will be part-funded by the council but operated by a commercial operator. It may be possible to use this mast, or the one in Gartmore, to provide a similar solution for the area between Callendar and Balfron or even provide a "relay" to other areas closer to Killearn. This will be explored with the potential operator;
- A support scheme has been relaunched for those with a very low speed at their premises. The Digital Scotland "Better Broadband Scheme" provides a subsidy to establish a better connection using either satellite or wireless. See the KCC website for specific links;
- A Broadband Supplier event took place at Kippen on 15 June where alternative suppliers of broadband presented their solutions (as some did at our Broadband Open Day). A report is available separately. It was well attended but there were far fewer individuals present than hoped for. Most were community representatives. A further meeting, aimed at this specific area, and affected individuals, is proposed for early December at Balfron High school;
- SRA Broadband report produced along with consequent media attention. Copies of the report , audio of the Radio Scotland Newsdrive interview, and resulting comments are available from the KCC website;
- MSP questions are also being raised as to whether 95% will really be achieved by end of the phase 1 programme in March 2018, and especially the status of premises in rural areas, and thus the size of the task for R100;
- CBS did not come out well from the SRA report and the hurdles imposed appear to continue to delay even long running projects like Balquhidder. BT Community Broadband projects seem to have had a similar unproductive history eg Kinlochard;
- Digital Scotland have returned answers to the set of questions we posed back in May, however these do not provide much additional clarity to the current situation;
- See below for the latest cabinet information. Note that the reliability of dates shown is uncertain, as are the specific locations, which refer to the often large areas within a single rural postcode:

Latest cabinet information:

Balfron (**Boquhan**) – P1 cabinet at G63 0LH now live since 9 Aug 2016, P3 at G63 0LE undergoing Field Survey (live by Oct 2016), and 2 **not available** (G63 0RA & G63 0QU);

Balmaha – 10 cabinets all **not available**;

Blanefield/Strathblane – P1 cabinet (Netherblane) live; P2 cabinet at G63 9BQ Being Built (live by Feb 2017), 1 undergoing Field Survey (location unknown, live by Apr 2017), 1 in Design (location unknown, live by Jan 2017) and 3 **not available** (G63 9AH, G63 9EF & G63 9BU);

Buchlyvie – P2 cabinet at FK8 3LP Being Connected (live by Jan 2017), 1 undergoing Field Survey (location unknown live by Oct 2016), 12 **not available** (FK8 3ET, G63 0QX, FK8 3PA, FK8 3LZ, G63 0QY, FK8 3PB, FK8 3NS, FK8 3NY, FK8 3PD, FK8 3NR plus 2 locations unclear) ;

Croftamie – P2 cabinet (between village and A811 junction to Balloch) live;

Drymen – P1 cabinet at G63 0BY Being Built (live by Feb 2017), 2 cabinets P3 & P4) at G63 0BD and G63 0 HT undergoing Field Survey (live by Dec 2016) and 1 in Design (location unknown, live by Jan 2017) and 5 **not available** (G63 0BA, G63 0NG, G63 0AB, G63 0BG & G63 0BL);

Fintry – 1 cabinet in Design (location unknown, live by Jan 2017) and 13 **not available** (G63 0LP, G63 0YH, G63 0LR, G63 0XH, G63 0QF, G63 0LT, G63 0XJ, G63 0XG plus 5 locations unclear);

Killearn –now showing no cabinets live with P1 at G63 9LD undergoing Field Survey (near Baptiston, live by June 2017), and 8 **not available** (G63 8QH, G63 0LF, G63 9LH, G63 9LB, G63 9PL, G63 0PB, G63 9PT plus 1 location unclear);

Milton of Buchanan – see Balmaha above;

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