

NBG Report for KCC Meeting 18 Apr 2018

Again there have been few visible changes in landline connectivity over the last month. The status of the cabinets in the various villages also remains unchanged. There is a Broadband Delivery Group meeting this week so a report will be included at next month's meeting. As discussed last month, the mobile mast at Finnich Toll has been upgraded and other masts locally are being improved too. This should provide a 4G signal that can be utilised to provide a faster connection albeit with a need to monitor your data usage but possibly at a comparable cost to a landline broadband. Mobile coverage maps have been added to the KCC website to assist with understanding the possibility of using this option.

For Killearn, the connectivity of premises and the status of the 2 possible further cabinets are unchanged from last month. The locations remain unknown. As trailed above, the mobile mast at Finnich Toll has been upgraded and depending on your network provider may now be providing a 4G signal. For some outlying premises, this may provide a viable alternative (Mobile Broadband) to using a landline.

In Balfron no premises appear to have had upgraded landline connections in the past month, but the masts beside the Golf Club and Ballikinrain have been upgraded and should provide a 4G connection. Again this may help outlying premises.

Landlines for Balmaha premises are again unchanged this month. However, the upgrades being done to mobile phone masts in the area, when available, may provide a viable alternative (Mobile Broadband) to using a landline for some more remote premises.

In Blanefield/Strathblane no premises appear to have had upgraded connections in the past month but some postcodes last month showed that the both the first cabinets (G63 9BY and G63 9JW) needed to be expanded. This may now have been remedied. Everywhere else in the village is shown as being in Build but this has been the case for some time. Apparently the mobile mast at Queen's View has also been upgraded.

In Buchlyvie, a new cabinet is now in Field Survey, but has been pushed back to Dec 2018 (from March), and the location is still unknown. Although almost all premises are now connected, some are acknowledged as having slower speeds than desirable. As for the other villages, upgrades to mobile masts in the area may, for the remoter premises, provide a viable alternative (Mobile Broadband) to using a landline.

Drymen premises have not changed status this month. Croftamie premises also appear unchanged. Properties on the G63 0NH postcode, covering parts of Gartness and Balfron Station and connected to the Drymen exchange appear to be Accepting Orders although they are on very long lines and are in a future plan to use FTTP technology to deliver faster speeds. The same is the case for some premises on the A811 towards Gartocharn from the A809 junction near Drymen. The timescale for this remains unknown.

For Fintry three cabinets are now showing although work on the first cabinet (that should have gone live in Sept 2017) has still not started. The date for the 2 other cabinets to go live is Sept 2018. ALL premises for postcodes covering the whole village are now shown as In Scope 'to be built either as part of the fibre programme or through a partnership with the local authority'. A mobile mast upgrade is also promised in the next 3 months and this will provide an immediate improvement if it allows a 4G mobile connection, i.e. Mobile Broadband, to be used instead of a landline.

Remember the status of your individual connectivity can be checked on either of the WhereandWhen pages of the BT Openreach or Digital Scotland websites. The additional 'refinements' of status from the BT Openreach Where and When website are shown at the end of the detail section overleaf.

ALSO do not forget the Digital Scotland "Better Broadband Scheme" provides a subsidy to establish a better connection using either satellite or fixed wireless for those currently getting download speeds of less than 2Mbps. See the KCC website for specific links.

The latest status of cabinets in each of the villages is shown overleaf:

- **Cabinet status summary:**

- Balfroon cabinets: 2 live (P1 at G63 0LH & P3 at G63 0NA) plus a further 4 live between March & Sept 2018 but locations unknown. About 85% of the village (by postcode) is now showing Accepting Orders for fibre (subject to distance). Majority of other premises are shown as In Scope;
- Balmaha cabinets: some postcodes are showing as In Scope i.e. more advanced than Exploring Solutions;
- Blane/Strathblane cabinets: 3 live (P1 cabinet at Netherblane; P2 cabinet at G63 9BY, and P3 cabinet showing as Field Survey, location unknown, but now supposedly live). Over 85% of the village (by postcode) is now shown as Accepting Orders for fibre (subject to distance). The remaining postcodes (i.e. G63 9AH, G63 9EH, G63 9ET, G63 9EU, G63 9EX, G63 9EY, G63 9EZ & G63 9HA) are showing as in Build but connected to cabinet PE1 that confusingly shows as unavailable;
- Buchlyvie cabinets: P2 cabinet at FK8 3LP is live and services most of the village. Some more premises are connected now while other premises are still Exploring Solutions. A 2nd cabinet is showing, location unknown, in Design and apparently planned for March 2018. Premises at FK8 3LS & G63 0QU remain Exploring Solutions. About 88% of the village (by postcode) is now shown as Accepting Orders for fibre (subject to distance);
- Croftamie cabinets: P2 live (at G63 0EP between village and A811 junction to Balloch). Another cabinet has appeared on the corner of Buchanan Cres and the A809, but it's unclear whether it is live. A cabinet is also being shown at Cattermills (G63 0BB), available since Dec 2017. These latter cabinets may be the same one, but with a faulty postcode;
- Drymen cabinets: 3 live (P1 at G63 0BY, P2 at G63 0EP i.e. Croftamie, and P3 at G63 0BD). Additional premises are shown as Accepting Orders (within G63 0NH) using a cabinet number 3 at G63 0AA. P4 has appeared at Buchanan Castle Gdns in the Castle Estate at G63 0HT with premises being Connected. This should have gone live in Feb 2018, with 2 further cabinets: P5 also at G63 0BB i.e. in Croftamie (allegedly already live from Nov 2017), and E10 in Field Survey supposedly going live in July 2018, but location unknown. Planning permission has been sought for a cabinet at G63 0BH that is possibly the 2nd of these cabinets i.e. E10;
- Fintry cabinets: 3 cabinets are now shown, E1 (location unknown but possibly opposite the Garage in Main St) allegedly scheduled to be live in Sept 2017 (although no actual work has actually started) and E2 (location also unknown and scheduled to go live in Sept 2018). A 3rd cabinet has now appeared (again location unknown) scheduled to go live in Dec 2018. The fixed-wireless solution similar to that delivered to Auchengillan is now on hold indefinitely due these plans by BT;
- Killearn cabinets: 3 cabinets are live (E1 at Blane Smithy), E3 (at jn of Station Rd and Gartness Rd) and P1 (beside Exchange). 2 further cabinets appear to be proposed (although neither location is known) and there is still permission for a cabinet at the junction of The Square and Crosshead Rd. Both are now at Field Survey, P2 allegedly live by July 2018 and E6 allegedly live by Sept 2018. Some further premises (on G63 0NJ) have been connected to the E1 cabinet but most are on lines that are too long to benefit currently. Additional premises are shown as Accepting Orders (within G63 9LA, G63 9NP, G63 9PD, G63 9PT, G63 9QG, G63 9QN, G63 9QT, G63 9QY, G63 9RQ & G63 9SQ);
- Milton of Buchanan – see Balmaha above.

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. You can check your own situation using the BT Openreach WhereandWhen website.

Note: the stages in “the Fibre Journey” are:

Exploring Solutions, In scope, Design, Field Survey, Build, Connect, Activate, Accepting Orders.

The timescale for “the journey” is likely to be about 12-18 months.

Status ‘refinements’:

Exploring Solutions: We're working with government and industry to explore ways to bring Superfast fibre to as many people as possible but don't have a plan for your area yet. You might consider co-funding fibre access in your community. Knowing there's a healthy demand in your area can also really help.

In Scope: You're in a plan to get Superfast fibre but we haven't started work yet. It'll be built either as part of our fibre programme or through a partnership with your local authority.

In scope – FTTP: Your area is currently in our plans to be upgraded with Fibre to the Premises (FTTP), however we follow a different design and build process for FTTP so you won't see updates at each stage. Once the engineering work is completed there is a commissioning period of up to eight weeks before an order can be placed. When you are able to place an order you will see the Accepting Orders message.

Accepting Orders but line Too Long: Your cabinet is enabled for Superfast fibre however you're not able to order fibre just yet. This might be because the length of the line is too long to get Superfast speeds. We're actively looking at other options.

Doug Ashworth

Chair, Killearn Broadband Group