

NBG Report for KCC Meeting 17 Apr 2019

There have been no changes to the connectivity of premises in Killearn for a third month, so fibre connectivity remains at about 60% of premises. Cabinet P3 is still showing the status of Being Activated for a second month but was expected to be Live last month. If this cabinet was Live, the percentage of the village connected to the fibre network might rise to about 75%. Additional infrastructure work has again been seen in various parts of the village, even arc-welding sub-fibres to the main fibre cable in some cases, as a prelude to an FTTP connection being available outside your premises. About a third of the current outstanding premises are currently planned to be by using FTTP, which will give the best speeds, but it is unclear how the majority of the rest will be connected as they are still 'Exploring Solutions'.

The stages of the progression on the 'Fibre Journey' are shown overleaf.

In Fintry, although about 75% of the village now has access to fibre connections, the other areas of the village remain unchanged, clearly In Scope, but otherwise unplanned.

In Balfroon, cabinet P7 went Live this month adding a few more premises, meaning over 90% of premises have access to a fibre service. The majority of remaining premises are planned to be connected by FTTP.

There are no visible changes regarding landline improvements for Balmaha, Milton of Buchanan, etc, however discussions have taken place, through the Broadband Delivery Forum, to explore the possibilities of using the Mobile network to bring better internet connectivity to the most remote areas.

All Buchlyvie premises are now Accepting Orders except for a few premises on FK8 3ET and FK8 3LS. This is unchanged from last month.

For Drymen there have not been any changes this month. Cabinet P4 is still in the process of 'Being Activated', unchanged yet again from previous months. (P4 is within Buchanan Castle estate and was due to be live in Nov 2018). Again no changes are visible for Croftamie. About 80% of premises in Drymen and Croftamie are now connected to the fibre network, although quite a few are on long lines and therefore unable to benefit fully.

In Blanefield/Strathblane there haven't been any changes. In summary, several premises along the B821 Cuilts Road, around Auchengillan and Carbeth are now recognised as being on long lines, being re-assessed and fibre cabling (infrastructure) appears to have been installed on at least part of the route. In some cases these seem to be for an FTTP connection and a couple may have already have been connected in a better way during the last few months. This village is otherwise completely connected to the fibre network, although there are some further outlying premises also on long lines.

Remember the Better Broadband Scheme has apparently been enhanced to include a 4G mobile-based installation with the supplier claiming the discount on your behalf.

You can always check the status of your own premises by using the WhereandWhen page available either through the BT Openreach website (www.homeandbusiness.openreach.co.uk/fibre-broadband/when-can-i-get-fibre) or the equivalent Digital Scotland website (www.scotlandsuperfast.com/check-my-area).

Some diagrams of the alternative ways fibre services may be provided by BT Openreach are linked to this report.

Diagram 1 shows a simplified view of the how the Fibre Network distributes the internet to local premises.

Diagram 2 shows how the local connection is made using a (fairly) nearby fibre cabinet, called Fibre to the Cabinet (FTTC) that feeds typically about 100 premises. Typical speeds are 30-80Mbps.

Diagram 3 shows how the local connection is made using fibre all the way to a single location, called Fibre to the Premises (FTTP). Typically this would be used where 20-30 premises are close together. Speeds can go as high as 300Mbps.

Diagram 4 shows how the local connection is made using a kind of mini-cabinet called a DSLAM, to a small number of premises located very close together. Typical speeds are 30-80Mbps.

Diagram 5 shows an rarer scenario of a connection specially for a single location Fibre on Demand (FTTPoD).

Diagram 6 shows the overall Fibre Network that brings the internet to the Local area.

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

- **Cabinet status summary:**

- Balfroon cabinets: 4 live (P1 at G63 0LH, P2 at G63 0RA, P3 at G63 0LG & P7 near Balikinrain) plus a further cabinet (P5), being Activated though it was to be live by Nov 2018 (at Castle Gardens, Balikinrain);
- Balmaha cabinets: there are still no cabinets shown as being planned but Mobile Broadband based solutions are being explored;
- Blane/Strathblane cabinets: 3 live (P1 cabinet at G63 9AN at Netherblane; P2 cabinet at G63 9BS, and P3 cabinet showing as Field Survey, location unknown, but now supposedly live). All the central part of the village is now connected to fibre;
- Buchlyvie cabinets: P2 cabinet at FK8 3LP is live and services most of the village. Only 1 additional cabinet (P4) is now showing, but location unknown, in Field Survey and apparently planned for Mar 2019;
- Croftamie cabinets: P2 at G63 0DH approx., between village and A811 junction to Balloch, & cabinet P5 at G63 0EP, on the corner of Buchanan Cres and the A809;
- Drymen cabinets: 3 live (P1 at G63 0BY, P3 at G63 0BD, and P6 at G63 0DW). Also P4 (at Buchanan Castle Gdns in the Castle Estate at G63 0HT), is still 'Being Activated' though still shown as being Live by Nov 2018;
- Fintry cabinets: 2 cabinets are now listed. P3 opposite the church on the Crow Road and P2 at the exchange. Meanwhile 4G available from mobile masts may provide an immediate solution for other premises outside the village itself;
- Killearn cabinets: 4 cabinets are live (E1 at Blane Smithy), E3 (at jn of Station Rd and Gartness Rd), P1 (beside Exchange) and P2 (at the junction of The Square and Crosshead Rd). Cabinet P3 is down Drumbeg Loan listed as 'Being Activated';
- 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