

NBG Report for KCC Meeting 20 Feb 2019

There have been no changes to the connectivity of premises in Killearn this month. However additional infrastructure work has been seen in various parts of the village.

The Broadband Delivery Group that has morphed into the Broadband Delivery Forum met in January. This brought together representatives from about half the districts that have poor broadband across the county and who are either running a community project, or exploring the possibility of starting one. We learned that the current Gainshare programme will now run until Dec 2019 with access to about £20M additional funding. This may extend connections to about a further 10,000 premises across Scotland. The contracts for the R100 programme, that will continue the work, are still being negotiated and are not expected to be resolved until the end of Q2-2019. Consequently, there seems very little chance of work being completed by the desired end-date i.e. the life of the current Scottish Parliament, in 2021. It is thought that these connections will, in general, be FTTP. There will be an 'Agreed Intervention' element, running in parallel with the main R100 programme, to reach the most difficult locations. Areas served by a pre-existing independent development will still benefit from R100 programme, so choice will be made available to each premise, but this will also mean that 'over-build' is a distinct possibility.

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

The GigaBit scheme has had its subsidies reduced (by 1/6th), but the ratio of residential premises to business premises required to be served by a project has improved (now 10:1).

Residents of premises in Gartness, who formed their own Gartness Community Group and gained a grant from Stirling Council, are in the process of exploring how a better broadband service can be brought into their area.

The Drymen cabinets P4 and cabinet P6 are still in the process of 'Being Activated'. These remain unchanged yet again from previous months. (P4 is within Buchanan Castle estate and was due to be live in Nov 2018, while the location of P6 is possibly in Gartness Road as a cabinet is now there and allegedly due to be live in January). Again no changes are visible for Croftamie.

For the Balfron exchange, the only changes seem to have been a few premises being added back into the WhereandWhen lists by postcode. The location of P7 is now known to be at Balikinrain.

All Buchlyvie premises are now Accepting Orders except some premises on FK8 3ET and FK8 3LS.

There are no visible changes for Balmaha, Milton of Buchanan, etc.

In Fintry, the 2nd cabinet beside the Kirk still does not seem to be live although BT have brought their Roadshow to the village to encourage people to take up the fibre offering and provide information. A few premises are now appearing on a different postcode.

In Blanefield/Strathblane several premises along the B821 Cults Road, around Auchengillan and Carbeth are now recognised as being on long lines and are being re-assessed. In some cases these seems to be for an FTTP connection and a couple may have already have been connected in a better way during the past month.

Remember you can 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).

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

- **Cabinet status summary:**

- Balfron cabinets: 2 live (P1 at G63 OLH & P3 at G63 ONA) plus a further 2 planned down from 3 last month). P5 supposedly Being Activated and to be live by Nov 2018 (locations unknown) and P7 in Field Survey to be live by July 2019 located at Castle Gardens, Balikinrain;
- Balmaha cabinets: there are still no cabinets shown as being planned;
- Blanefield/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). Cabinet PE1, location unknown, now 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 live (at G63 OEP between village and A811 junction to Balloch). Cabinet P5, on the corner of Buchanan Cres and the A809, is apparently live and been available since Dec 2017;
- Drymen cabinets: 3 live (P1 at G63 OBY, and P3 at G63 OBD). Also P4 (at Buchanan Castle Gdns in the Castle Estate at G63 OHT), is 'Being Activated' and is still shown as being Live by Nov 2018. This should have gone live in Feb 2018. A cabinet has been installed in Gartness Road (Planning permission had been sought for a cabinet at G63 0BH) that is possibly the cabinet listed as P6 (but location actually unknown) which is now 'Being Activated and supposedly to be live by Jan 2019;
- Fintry cabinets: 2 cabinets are now listed. P3 opposite the church on the Crow Road, that had been expected to be live in Dec 2018, and P2 at the exchange that should be live by Jan 2019 but already has premises connected and Accepting Orders. Maybe these numbers are inverted as P2 is now live. Meanwhile 4G now available from the mobile masts may provide an immediate solution for many premises, especially those furthest 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 has appeared halfway down Drumbeg Loan listed as 'Being Connected', to be live by Feb 2019;
- 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