

NBG Report for KCC Meeting 26 June 2019

This month's report is focused on Killearn as it has become much more difficult to check multiple premises to compose these reports to encompass all the Strathendrick villages.

The recent infrastructure improvements have finally borne fruit in that Lampson Road, Lampson Lane and Lampson Loan now have FTTP connections available. These premises were previously on long EO lines that meant 'superfast' speeds were not possible. Very fast speeds are now possible, as long as you are willing to pay the premium over your existing metal EO connection. The one down side is that this fast service may only be available from a very few suppliers. BT claims no other supplier can offer it, however Zen, for example, is a different ISP (Internet Service Supplier) worth approaching. The BT offering allows you to select from a variety of speeds to suit your needs – and pocket! Other parts of the village that are accepting fibre-based orders are supplied via FTTC and this service is available from several possible ISPs.

In other parts of the village, the status of some premises that were shown to be 'Accepting Orders' but were also some distance from a cabinet, are now showing the speed that might be expected. This information is drawn from the Digital Scotland Where and When site, that has been modified a little to better provide information at premises, rather than postcode level. Possibly this reflects the shift from the previous Step Change programme, which operated at a postcode level, to the new R100 programme that will operate at premises level. You will be well aware of the large areas that are covered by the same postcode in a rural area, and therefore inevitably inaccurate when used to assess the performance of a specific connection that is very dependent on the length of the line.

The BT Openreach Where and When site has been changed significantly and now really only works easily to explore the status of single premises. This is fine to check a few premises but no longer suitable to compile this report. It is to be hoped that the Digital Scotland site will continue to be updated as before as the information comes from BT Openreach and has been a shared website until now.

For other premises there have not been any changes, just a clarification via the Digital Scotland site of confirmation of premises being connected by an EO line, and that this is more difficult to provide a 'superfast' solution, or confirming that an FTTP solution is being considered where lines are particularly long. Cabinet P3 still does not appear to have gone Live, so no improvements have happened in Drumbeg Loan or The Branziert.

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 Digital Scotland website (www.scotlandsuperfast.com/check-my-area). Note that this website does not operate through a secure connection and so you may get a warning from your browser software.

Alternatively, the revised BT Openreach website (<https://www.openreach.com/fibre-broadband>) is available.

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