

NBG Report for KCC Meeting 20 Mar 2019

There have been no changes to the connectivity of premises in Killearn for a second month. However, cabinet P3 is making progress, the status at Being Activated, but supposedly Live this month. Also, additional infrastructure work has again been seen in various parts of the village and on other roads in the area as evidenced by the armoured fibre (thicker cabling) appearing strung from telegraph poles. About 65% of premises in Killearn are now shown as Accepting Orders, however BT Openreach also acknowledge that some of these are on long lines and therefore unable to actually receive a fibre-speed service. In reality, perhaps as many as 10-15% of those connected to a cabinet are on lines longer than 1km, a guide to the maximum line length for the desired target download speed of 30Mbps.

In Fintry, the 2nd cabinet beside the Kirk is now live and accepting orders from all the premises out along Crow Road. The other areas of the village remain unchanged. This does mean though that about 75% of the village now has access to a fibre service and as these are in the centre of the village, they should all get the desired 30Mbps download speeds.

For the Balfron exchange, the Go-live date of cabinet P7 at Balikinrain, has apparently been brought forward to this month. Over 90% of premises serviced by the Balfron exchange now have access to a fibre service, although a very few of these are recognised as being on long lines so that they cannot fully benefit from the fibre connectivity.

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

All Buchlyvie premises are now Accepting Orders except for a few premises on FK8 3ET and FK8 3LS.

The Drymen 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). Cabinet P6 is in Gartness Road and is allegedly now live. 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. The GigaBit scheme may also be appropriate if a business is prepared to fund the bulk of the cost as grants are apparently still available and can be augmented by adjacent residential premises as a part of the installation.

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).

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

- **Cabinet status summary:**

- Balfron cabinets: 2 live (P1 at G63 0LH & P3 at G63 0NA) 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 Being Activated and allegedly live this month located at Castle Gardens, Balikinrain;
- Balmaha cabinets: there are still no cabinets shown as being planned;
- 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). 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 0EP 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 0BY, and P3 at G63 0BD). Also P4 (at Buchanan Castle Gdns in the Castle Estate at G63 0HT), 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 at G63 0DW, is probably P6, and should now be Live;
- 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 Activated, to be live by Mar 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