

NBG Report for KCC Meeting 15 May 2019

In Killearn there have been no changes to the connectivity of premises, from a consumer's perspective, for a fourth month, though again further infrastructure work has been seen going on at various locations around the village. Nor has cabinet P3 gone Live yet, so no improvements have happened in Drumbeg Loan or The Branziert.

In Fintry, all the postcodes still remaining to be connected to a fibre service have changed from 'In Scope' (either via R100 or in partnership with the local council) to 'Exploring Solutions'. These postcodes are essentially along the Kippen Road or part of Main Street. This is, at first glance, a backward step on the FTTC 'journey' described overleaf, however it is hopefully recognition that FTTC is inappropriate for the longer distances between these premises and the exchange. Consequently, many of these premises can be more effectively supplied by FTTP technology, and thus the re-assessment of how they might be connected. We'll have to wait and see.

All Buchlyvie premises are now Accepting Orders except for a few premises on FK8 3ET and FK8 3LS. This is unchanged from last month. Cabinet 4 has now gone live enabling premises out of the village and along Station Road on G63 0QY. A few of these are on long lines though and it seems an FTTP solution is being explored for them.

For Balfron, Balmaha, Blanefield/Strathblane, Drymen/Croftamie, Milton of Buchanan there were no changes this month.

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).

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

- **Cabinet status summary:**

- Balfron 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. The one additional cabinet (P4) is now Live but location still unknown;
- 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, but already 2 months later than expected;
- 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