

Kippen Broadband Supplier Event – 15 June 2016

Promoted by Stirling Council, organised by Douglas Baillie (SC) & Stuart Thomson (Kippen Broadband)

List of Suppliers/Presenters

Digital Scotland (DS) –(Duncan Nisbet)
BT Community Fibre Partnership – (Robert Thorburn)
Forth Valley & Lomond LEADER Funding – (Anne-Marie Ketteridge)
Computer Division – (Zahir Haider)
ABInternet – (Nicholas Ricketts)
Simply Balanced Business Services (Richard Barrett)
InternetAnywhere – (John Fitzgerald)
Briskona – (Jamie Parsons)
Community Broadband Scotland (CBS) Funding – (Shaun Marley)
TNP – (Chris Wade) – cancelled
Closing remarks by Cllr Neil Benny

General Comments:

Douglas Baillie has requested the presentations from the various companies, and aims to make them available through the Stirling Council webpage.

The R100 news came as a surprise (though outlined in SNP manifesto) but otherwise, primarily, a clearer focus of already known information was obtained.

Some more detailed discussions with the other Strathendrick communities will be beneficial.

Highlights (for me) from the presentations are below:

Digital Scotland

- Touched on SNP manifesto point to deliver Superfast Broadband¹ to all premises in Scotland (R100 ie Reaching 100%). A team is looking at how this might be achieved by 2021;
- R100 is in parallel with UKG (UK Government) aim to achieve 10Mbps USO by 2020 (though still in consultation);
- Fibre coverage across Scotland, initially expected to be 85% (split between BT & Virgin), now expected to be 95%, with 93% coverage for Stirlingshire;
- Phase I programme will complete works by end of Dec 2017, with contract complete by end of financial year 2016/17. Phase II to run similarly to Dec 2020;
- During Phase II mobile coverage of 4G should be extended and provide support further introduction of 5G services perhaps by 2022/23. DS & CBS will provide advice on pre-emptive interaction;
- Information from ThinkBroadband shows figures for connectivity and speeds for Rest of Scotland indicating 85% connected and 73% getting 24+Mbps, better in figures recently released for June 2016. Stirling is not as high as this average being 76% but 2% below 2Mbps and 12% below 10Mbps. See [thinkbroadband.com Stirlingshire](http://thinkbroadband.com/Stirlingshire)
- £25M is going back into the programme due to above target level of take-up of fibre service.

¹ There are different definitions of Superfast speed eg UK >24Mbps, EU & Openreach >30Mbps

BT Community Fibre Partnerships

- Objective is to address the final 5%
- Example projects in Bishopbriggs and Strathdean
- What is a “community”? No specific definition but example might be a clustered 15-20 premises
- Combination of EE (ie BT) and landlines might be a possible form of solution identified
- Depending on exact technology/costs/topography timescale is 9-12 months inception to delivery

LEADER

- Provision of funding and the objectives, constraints & rationale to access any funds
- Examples of use for funding, setup, planning, preparatory, marketing, business planning
- Ideally there is an innovative element
- Encouragement for linking multiple communities
- Funds allocated: minimum £5K, not specific maximum but Total fund available upto 2020 is only £2.78M
- To apply, go to www.ruralnetwork.scot/funding/Leader or email info@ruralnetwork.scot

Computer Division

- Description of company history and capabilities

ABInternet

- Currently 10K customers, in 50 communities
- Provided by fibre where viable, otherwise wireless
- Wireless provision by solar and/or wind-powered masts (“Ecopops” – Points of Presence) the height of a telegraph pole
- Negligible lag on Tx/Rx
- Loch Tay project went live on 1st June 2016 with 130 customers. Links made using 7 masts
Note: not sure now whether this was 7 masts to reach Loch Tay or to cover the Loch Tay area
- Recently done survey in support of Trossachs project (Bel Gullipen). Example area of coverage possible (10km towards west & south) Port of Menteith, Gartmore, Dalmary, & Thornhill. 6m mast
- Range of speed options from Basic 2Mbps upto 50Mbps; standard download limit of 100GB but Unlimited option is available for £5 extra
- Wireless router is supplied (Note: but I didn’t ask installation costs)

Simply Balanced

- Provider of Satellite broadband service
- 5-year old operation (initially was provider of accountancy services)
- Inverurie-based, 365/24/7 service by dedicated staff
- 200+ installations all over Scotland
- USPs: high-quality, reliability, free, fast & personal lifetime support, comprehensive FAQs for both potential & existing customers, installations resistant to Scottish weather
- Services used Avanti (2 satellites, and TooWay (1 satellite)
- Pluses: install anywhere; upto 15Mbps, or 22Mbps (contended); VOIP phone service; social connectivity; work-from-home enabler or out-of-town virtual office enabler
- Minuses: contention; initial cost of £7-800; high latency .75 secs at best, can be 1.5 sec when bad though compensated to some extent by pre-fetch at the ground station potentially reduces lag by 75%

InternetAnywhere

- Provider of Satellite broadband service
- Particular specialism in Mobile satellite services
- Operating for 4 years from Dundonald base
- Mainly Scotland but also UK footprint – primarily commercial installations
- Won several awards – “Yes We Can”
- Example of extremes of installation – 50 min walk from road to house in Kylesku; also Cromlix House (aggregated connections)
- Example uses/services: CCTV, video conferencing, mobile units for broadcasting (as well as fixed dishes), live streaming
- Operational points (refer to Simply Balanced presentation)
- Max speed: 22Mbps service (down), 6Mbps (up)
- Pluses: fast installation (3-4 hrs), VOIP or hand-held radio service, immediate availability, upto 22Mbps service, short-term hire & re-siting, flexible contract (eg keep kit but disable comms), variety of installations (eg patio stand)

Briskona

- Primarily a wireless-based broadband service
- Fibre-based backhaul with licenced radio links to local service provision
- Originally focussed on Clacks area 5 years ago, now with 25 sites and 80 access points
- Currently work with 1Gbps supply that will support 3-4000 users (currently ~800)
- Range of speed options from 4Mbps to 50+Mbps
- Unlimited download limit & package choice is by speed
- Latency about 40-45msec
- Customer requires line-of-sight to one of their transmitters, though local networks have been done
- Example installation at Gartmore: installation over 6 week period; initial enquiry indicated 50-60 users; 35 signed up to initiate project; currently 75 users

Post-presentation enquiries

Briskona packages are:

Down (Mbps)	Up (Mbps)	Cost/month		
4	1	£15		
10	4	£20		
15	5	£30		
24	6	£39		

12-month contracts; £165 installation charge that includes provision of router

Enquiry about remote siting of antenna: not desirable but could be upto 30m over Cat5 cabling

Community Broadband Scotland & BDG

- Scottish Government Consultation paper & postcodes is not the last word (eg R100 news)
- Fife projects are being whittled away by DS programme extensions
- Combined approach to CBS from several villages is likely to be better
- CBS & other reviews on hold due to change of approval legislation (& a typical project will still be 2 years from inception to delivery)