

NBG Report for KCC Meeting 20th Apr 2016

The main news this month is that cabinet E3 on Station Road has finally gone live! The bad news is that already the installed capacity has been reached and it will be another 6 months before more cards will be fitted to enable more orders to be taken. Stirling Council have agreed to commit £300K each year for the next 5 years to assist with the Broadband Project. The renamed Broadband Delivery (ex-Advisory) Group (BAG) has had a follow-up meeting, and there is another larger one tomorrow (21st) to which all Community Councils are invited. The remit is unclear as yet, so hopefully more in next month's report.

- Cabinet E3 on station Road is now live but ordering suspended until more cards are fitted. Another 6-month delay;
- Stirling Council has agreed to commit £300K each year for the next 5 years to address gaps in rural internet provision, but it seems will be keeping this under their direct control rather than simply adding it to the Digital Scotland programme as they did before. As yet it is unclear how, and where, this money can be used;
- Re-convened BDG chaired by Cllr Neil Benny is to meet again on 21st April, for the first of expected 3-monthly meetings. Douglas Baillie, Broadband Project Manager, had a preliminary meeting on 14th April. It remains unclear as yet what role this sub-group might play. DB's planned discussions with Mobile providers have not yet taken place. The planned audit of broadband provision has been stopped as apparently a report will come out from CBS in the next 8-12 weeks. This will be very welcome as it should finally allow us to see which areas will not be included in the main DS programme. Clare Mack and Viki Nash (who lives in Fintry), of Ofcom are retiring. This local contact will be missed. A large symposium-style meeting has been proposed to both provide an opportunity for suppliers to advertise what they can do for rural areas and also for communities to see what solutions are available. DS has not yet published any updated delivery information;
- As yet we do not see any value in asking Douglas Baillie to attend a KCC meeting;
- Work does not appear to have started yet on the Crosshead Rd cabinet;
- Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK) has announced a subsidised satellite-based programme to assist installation and first-year costs. This would allow premises that would still get less than 2Mbps under the current upgrades to get a minimum service. See the KBG webpage for more details.
- Cabinets in other local areas (reliability of dates shown unknown, and reliability of location reliant on rural postcodes) - 1 extra cabinet has appeared for Drymen & E3 live, otherwise same as last month:
Balfron (Boquhan) – 1 cabinet being built (live by June 2016), 1 undergoing Field Survey (live by Oct 2016), 1 in same phase as latter but work not yet started, and 1 in last phase (2017) ; **Balmaha** – nothing planned;
Blanefield/Strathblane – 1 cabinet (Netherblane) live; 1 (undergoing Field Survey -live by Oct 2016), 2 in Design (live by Jan 2017) and 2 “planned”; **Buchlyvie** – 2 undergoing Field Survey (1 with planning applied, both live by Oct 2016); **Croftamie** - cabinet (between village and A811 jn to Balloch) now live; **Drymen** – cabinet being built on Balmaha Rd (just past jn with Old Balmaha Rd) – live by June 2016), 5 cabinets undergoing Field Survey (live by Oct or Dec 2016) and 2 more in Design (live by Jan 2017); **Fintry** – 2 in Design (live by Jan 2017); **Killearn** – 2 live, 2 undergoing Field Survey (1 we think is Crosshead Rd, 1 might be sited just south of Baptiston on the A875), and 2 “planned”; **Milton of Buchanan** – nothing planned;
- We still have not heard from Digital Scotland, about when they are proposing to bring their mobile Roadshow to the village. However, given the over-subscription of cabinet E3 it would appear, and that there is no movement yet on the planned cabinet in Crosshead Road, there would not be any gain from it in the immediate future;
- Finally, if you are still not on the ADSL2+ service, detectable by a speed of above 8Mbps if you are fairly near the exchange or one of the 2 cabinets, it will be worthwhile speaking to your ISP. It may need starting a revised, or new, contract but you may also find you can get a better deal.

Doug Ashworth

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