

NBG Report for KCC Meeting 15 Nov 2017

There have been a few BT Openreach changes this month summarised below, mostly in Drymen and relating to additional connections to existing cabinets.

In Killlearn a further cabinet appears to be planned (now 2 planned), but again location is unknown. Some premises on the Strathblane exchange in the SE corner of the village have changed status to Build. Buchlyvie is little changed. The status of Balmaha, Croftamie and Fintry premises appear unchanged. Many more Drymen premises are either being connected or are already connected (see details below) and 3 premises on postcode G63 0SQ (Balfron Station/Drymen) are allegedly now able to order fibre lines. At least 1 more cabinet is also in the pipeline.

The next Stirling Council Broadband Delivery Group meeting is at the end of this month.

There was a question at KCC meeting about alternative Fibre suppliers. Currently only BT seem to actually offer a Fibre service in the village, although several others e.g. Plusnet, EE, TalkTalk, Sky, John Lewis initially suggest that they can provide a Fibre service. But when the specific address/phone number is checked, they can't provide a service. Two companies I haven't heard of: DirectSave Telecom and Origin Broadband are also in the initial list.

At last month's meeting I also reported that I had been in contact with developers Mactaggart & Mickel (Blairessen) and FM Group (Dalnair House) who both confirmed their intention to provide the premises in their respective developments with FTTP broadband.

We continue to install the Fixed Wireless Access system to a number of properties along the Stockiemuir Road and initial discussions have taken place with regard to a similar kind of solution for the outlying premises in Fintry that the planned BT cabinet there will not reach.

Remember the status of your individual connectivity can be checked on either of the WhereandWhen pages of the BT Openreach or Digital Scotland websites or in the tables at the end of this report.

ALSO do not forget the Digital Scotland "Better Broadband Scheme" provides a subsidy to establish a better connection using either satellite or wireless for those currently getting download speeds of less than 2Mbps. See the KCC website for specific links.

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

- **Cabinet status summary:**

- Balfron cabinets: 2 live (P1 at G63 0LH & P3 at G63 0NA) plus 3 live between March & July 2018. About 85% of the village (by postcode) is now showing Accepting Orders for fibre (subject to distance). Majority of other premises are shown as In Scope;
- Balmaha cabinets: some postcodes are showing as In Scope i.e. more advanced than Exploring Solutions;
- Blanefield/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). Parts of remaining postcodes (i.e. G63 9EW, G63 9EX, G63 9EY, G63 9EZ & G63 9HA) are showing as in Build, apparently with a change from EO line to Cabinet E1. Everywhere else is In Scope apart from a few at Exploring Solutions that look like data errors. Over 85% of the village (by postcode) is now showing Accepting Orders for fibre (subject to distance);
- Buchlyvie cabinets: P2 cabinet at FK8 3LP is live and services most of the village. Some more premises are connected now while other premises are still Exploring Solutions. A 2nd cabinet is showing, location unknown, apparently planned for March 2018. Otherwise the status of premises at FK8 3LP now all appear to be Accepting Orders, and the status of premises at FK8 3LS, G63 0LG & G63 0QU appears to have been clarified;
- Croftamie cabinets: P2 live (at G63 0EP between village and A811 junction to Balloch). Another cabinet (P2 at G63 0EP) has appeared on the corner of Buchanan Cres and the A809, but it's unclear whether it is live;

continued below ...

- Drymen cabinets: 3 live (P1 at G63 0BY, P2 at G63 0EP and P3 at G63 0BD). Additional premises are shown as Accepting Orders using these cabinets (G63 0AA, G63 0AX, G63 0BD, G63 0BH, G63 0BL, G63 0BP, G63 0BQ, G63 0BW, G63 0DN, G63 0DW, G63 0NG, G63 0SQ). P4 has appeared at Buchanan Castle Gdns in the Castle Estate at G63 0HT with premises being Connected (G63 0BG, G63 0BX, G63 0HT, G63 0HU & G63 0HX) although it's unclear whether this will be live by Dec 2017 or Feb 2018, with 2 cabinets (P5 and E10, locations unknown) going live between Feb & July 2018. Planning permission has been sought for a cabinet at G63 0BH that is probably one of these 2 cabinets;
- Fintry cabinets: 2 cabinets are shown, E1 (opposite the Garage in Main St) allegedly scheduled for Sept 2017 (although no actual work has actually started) and E2 for March 2018. A fixed-wireless solution similar to that delivered to Auchengillan is being investigated for those premises away from the centre of the village. Meanwhile about 60% of postcodes are In Scope, the others being Exploring Solutions;
- Killlearn cabinets: 3 cabinets are live (E1 at Blane Smithy), E3 (at jn of Station Rd and Gartness Rd) and P1 (beside Exchange). 2 further cabinets appear to be proposed (although neither location is known, and there is still permission for a cabinet at the junction of The Square and Crosshead Rd). 1 is in Design, allegedly live by March 2018, and the other in Field Survey, allegedly live by July 2018;
- 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.

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