

NBG Report for KCC Meeting 13 Dec 2017

BT Openreach continue to make (slow) progress with cabinet status moving forward and additional connections to existing cabinets in Drymen and Strathblane.

For Killlearn, the status of 2 possible further cabinets has progressed but the live date has slipped by 2 months. The locations remain unknown.

In Balfron a further cabinet is apparently at the Field Survey stage. No premises appear to have had upgraded connections in the past month.

Balmaha premises are again unchanged this month.

Several premises on the Strathblane exchange in the SE corner of the village have changed status to Accepting Orders from Build.

In Buchlyvie a few more premises at G63 0QU are apparently Accepting Orders.

Some more Drymen premises have moved from Connected to Accepting Orders while others have moved to In Scope. Croftamie premises appear unchanged

Work on the Fintry cabinet has still not started and the date for a 2nd cabinet has moved out to Sept 2018.

The Stirling Council Broadband Delivery Group meeting met at the end of last month under its new Councillor members. There was no personal input from Digital Scotland just a simple statement re-iterating the information from BT that 'around 92% of Scots households can now sign up for superfast broadband of 30Mbps+, that around 95% by the end of 2017 will have access to fibre broadband, and that the Scottish government remain committed to extend superfast coverage to 100% of premises. Further details of the R100 programme will be provided in the coming months'. For Stirlingshire specifically, this is currently 79% and expected to be 93.4% by the end of 2017/18. More information, through new contract awards, is not actually anticipated until the end of 2018. The Ben Gullipen mast, that it was hoped would aid premises between Callander and Balfron, now appears uncertain after the consultant's report. The Brig o'Turk community are exploring a WhiteSpace solution that may help where the terrain is particularly difficult but otherwise, along with Kinlochard are planning to wait for R100 to deliver. It appears that the Business Voucher scheme may be revived. Stirling Council will also offer to support small wi-fi hubs in community premises.

We continue to install the Fixed Wireless Access system to a number of properties along the Stockiemuir Road but the Fintry discussions have not advanced further primarily as any service will be dependent on the planned BT cabinet.

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 overleaf:

- **Cabinet status summary:**

- Balfroon cabinets: 2 live (P1 at G63 0LH & P3 at G63 0NA) plus a further 4 live between March & Sept 2018 but locations unknown. 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;
- 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). Some additional premises are now Accepting Orders having been connected to cabinet P2 (within G63 9AH, G63 9EH, G63 9EN, G63 9EP, G63 9ET & G63 9EW). Parts of remaining postcodes (i.e. G63 9AH, G63 9EH, G63 9ET, G63 9EU, 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 shown as 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. Additional premises at FK8 3LP and G63 0QU appear to be Accepting Orders. Premises at FK8 3LS & G63 0QU remain Exploring Solutions;
- 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;
- 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 0AB, G63 0BG, G63 0NQ). P4 has appeared at Buchanan Castle Gdns in the Castle Estate at G63 0HT with premises being Connected 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 has moved out from March to Sept 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;
- Killearn 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). Both are now at Field Survey, but both have slipped by a couple of months: P2 allegedly live by July 2018 and E6 allegedly live by Sept 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.

Doug Ashworth

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