

Southern Parishes Link - BROADBAND UPDATE

The West Devon Borough Council Rural Broadband Working Group meets with Connecting and Somerset (CDS) about every two months. The next meeting is on Tuesday 8th July 2014. The minutes are available on-line, this is not a tea and biscuit event passing the time of day. It is filled with questioning on the progress of not only the BDUK funded better broadband delivery but also the commercial roll-out. Together with other associated issues. When I do give the odd compliment, everything stops to note it.

At present some 43 percent of the funded delivery has either been delivered or is underway in West Devon and is scheduled for completion by the end of September 2014. Prior to that date, more 'communities' will be told they will get something from this programme.

The majority of premises in West Devon are in the commercial roll-out areas which will also provide the largest number of premises that are missed out, from the cabinet. It has only been recently that CDS have released the fact that they will assist those cabinets missed out, but this is coded as 'Further planning and survey work will be carried on this exchange under the Devon and Somerset programme'. When speaking to BDUK on other matters they confirm this assistance.

If any Parish has a question for CDS please email me and I will ask them face to face at our meetings. I know the usual one will be when, as we get closer to possible delivery this is turning into 'what will we be getting'.

I would ask that every Parish Council appoint someone to represent that Council on 'broadband' matters. The Cosmic Peninsula Consortium (supplier for the business and community support programme) will be appearing to deliver training, support and advice to those areas who have or are about to have better broadband delivered. They will look for liaison. This is a million pound contract.

You will know that not everyone is a 'net user' or is interested in becoming one. But they are in a small minority and should not deter anyone from having a go. The last official government survey puts the usage of the internet for the 16-50 year age group as 97%.

I always have a worrying aspect and this time it is the percentage of superfast (over 24 Mbps) or for Ofcom following EU directives 30 Mbps that will actually be delivered in West Devon. I would put this as between 60% and 70% at present, this does not include the near 100,000 premises in Devon and Somerset that make up the 10 percent not in any roll-out (by December 2016).

But don't despair, some of our business centres have poor provision and some pay £500 per month (down from £1100 and on a 3 year contract) for 10 Mbps. The cost of business broadband if you are lucky enough to have a cabinet (and be near it) for a max of 80 Mbps is £35 per month.

What follows is the BT Telephone Exchange progress breakdown. I am not aware of any Exchange in West Devon just getting a boost to ensure the Government aspiration of a universal speed guarantee of 2 Mbps for all. Fibre to the Cabinet (FTTC) should be the minimum and new cabinet(s) sited accordingly for Exchange Only lines.

Cllr John Sheldon West Devon Borough Council: June 2014
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Funded Exchanges	Completion Reported By	Code	Fibre to Cabinet No.	Non Fibre
Beaworthy	September 2014	01409		ADSL MAX
Bere Alston	Under evaluation	01822		ADSL2+
Black Torrington	September 2014	01409		ADSL MAX
Bratton Clovelly	September 2014	01837		ADSL MAX
Bridestowe	September 2014	01837		ADSL MAX
Chagford	September 2014	01647		ADSL MAX
Chillaton	Under evaluation	01822		ADSL MAX
Drewsteignton	Under evaluation	01647		ADSL MAX
Exbourne	Under evaluation	01837		ADSL MAX
Hatherleigh	LIVE	01837	1,3,4	ADSL MAX
Lewdown	Under evaluation	01566		ADSL MAX
Lifton	Under evaluation	01566		ADSL MAX
Lydford	Under evaluation	01822		ADSL MAX
Mary Tavy	Under evaluation	01822		ADSL MAX
Milton Abbot	Under evaluation	01822		ADSL MAX
North Tawton	LIVE	01837	1,2,3	ADSL MAX
Princetown	Under evaluation	01822		ADSL MAX
Sticklepath	LIVE	01837	1,2,3	ADSL MAX
Whiddon Down	Under evaluation	01647		ADSL MAX
Postbridge	Other Funding	01822		ADSL MAX
BT Commerically Funded Exchanges				
Tavistock	LIVE	01822	3,4,5,6,7,9,12	ADSL2+
Yelverton	LIVE	01822	5	ADSL2+
Okehampton	LIVE	01837	7,8,9,10	ADSL2+
Please report any Cabinet (other than the above) you see with a new Fibe Cabinet (DSLAM) to wdbc@devonbroadband.co.uk - Openreach people in my experience are a friendly bunch and will tell you what they are doing within reason.				