



As of 31 March 2014...
8,399
 homes and businesses
 have been fibre
 enabled thanks to
 Connecting Shropshire.

Monthly Update

A roundup of what has been going on in the programme during March.

Additional funding for Connecting Shropshire

A further £1,454,257 has been awarded to Connecting Shropshire by the government to provide over 1,000 additional rural premises with access to faster fibre broadband. This extra coverage will be provided under an extension to the current programme being rolled-out by the partnership. Technical surveys will be undertaken ahead of coverage details being confirmed.

For the full news story, please [click here](#).

Connecting Shropshire is one!

On Thursday 27 March, Connecting Shropshire reached its first anniversary. Steve Charmley, Shropshire Council cabinet member for broadband, said:

“It’s been a big year and getting things up and running was a huge task, however now we’re underway and things are picking up speed it’s clear we’ve come a long way in a year. The next year for the project – and getting fibre to as many people as we can – is the focus for us now.”

So in this update, we take a look back over the past 12 months since the £24.6million deal was signed...

Latest communities to “go live”

In the last three weeks the following became the latest communities to receive high-speed fibre broadband:

- | | |
|---------------|------------|
| Albrighton | Cosford |
| Halfway House | Minsterley |
| Plox Green | Pontesbury |
| Westbury | Yockleton |

They join Bicton, Harlescott and Montford Bridge areas making up the current total of 36 cabinets and 8,399 premises now live and eligible to receive fibre.

If you live or work in any of these areas and would like to upgrade, please check availability with your ISP (Internet Service Provider).



Fascinating facts

During the first year since the contract was formally signed engineers working for Openreach, BT's local network business, have:

- Laid more than 80,000 metres of fibre optic cable;
- Installed more than 180,000 metres of new ducting;
- Sited more than 50 new roadside cabinets;
- Moved more than 120 tonnes of earth;
- Cleared in excess of 2,000m of blockages;
- And poured around 55 tonnes of concrete, to make faster broadband a reality.

News from Optimising Business Broadband

It is an exciting time for OBB –working with supplier, [Winning Moves](#) they will host an array of events across Shropshire and Staffordshire to promote the benefits of Faster Broadband over the next 12 months.

Work has also started with other ERDF funded projects, with the first joint venture alongside [Agile Office Centre](#), a free event covering aspects of Assisted Funding for IT. If you would like to know more about points such as Process Reviews, Cloud Technologies, Remote Working, Reduction in Administration Tasks and more, a breakfast meeting is being held at:

Priorslee Campus, University of Wolverhampton

Wednesday 9th April, 8am to 10am

To book your place, please [click here](#). Limited tickets available!

OBB will also be working with the [Eureka! Moment](#) project hosting a breakfast session on:

Friday, 11th April

7.30 – 9.30am

Shropshire Food Enterprise Centre

Guest speakers will be Alan Ward, director of the Innovation School and Helen Hunter-Hayes, Eureka! Moment Project Manager. To find out how even small innovation projects can transform your business, [click here](#) to book your place at this FREE event.


For more information on OBB, follow on Twitter @OBBSHropStaffs or visit the website at:

www.optimisingbusinessbroadband.co.uk/

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