

Make the Switch!

To discover what fibre can do for you, you must opt-in by contacting your ISP

Monthly Update

A roundup of what's been going on in the programme during September (and early October)

100th cabinet now live!



On 2 October, Connecting Shropshire marked a double milestone in St Martins with the unveiling of the 100th fibre cabinet to go live and surpassing 20,000 homes and businesses within reach of the new fibre optic network.

The Rt Hon Owen Paterson, MP for North Shropshire, joined community representatives and members of the Connecting Shropshire team at the new road-side cabinet in St Martins. The cabinet provides nearly 300 village premises with the ability to connect to the new fibre

broadband network and receive download speeds of up to 80mbps and uploads of up to 20mbps. It's an opt-in service, so residents and businesses are reminded to contact their chosen Internet Service Provider to upgrade to fibre broadband. For the full story, go to the Shropshire Council [newsroom](#) or click on <http://bit.ly/10ErVKs>

'Live' cabinets get stickers

The eagle-eyed amongst you may have noticed that some of the new roadside cabinets installed by the Connecting Shropshire programme have had a sticker attached to show local residents that fibre broadband is now available to order.

Here is one we prepared earlier and, just for fun, I wonder if anyone can recognise where it is? As an added clue, I can tell you that the hill in the background is The Wrekin. To check your answer see the end of the newsletter.

For a list of all our live cabinets, see:

<http://connectingshropshire.co.uk/live-cabinets/>



Plans to provide fibre broadband to 13 new exchange areas announced

In September we announced that thirteen more exchange areas will get high-speed fibre broadband before the end of next year as part of the programme. Connecting Shropshire aims to make fibre-based broadband available to around 7,500 homes and businesses in the following exchange areas by the end of 2015: Bishops Castle, Bromfield, Calverhall, Cressage, Ditton Priors, Dudleston Heath, Ellesmere, Hodnet, Knockin, Munslow, Norton, Seifton and Worfield.

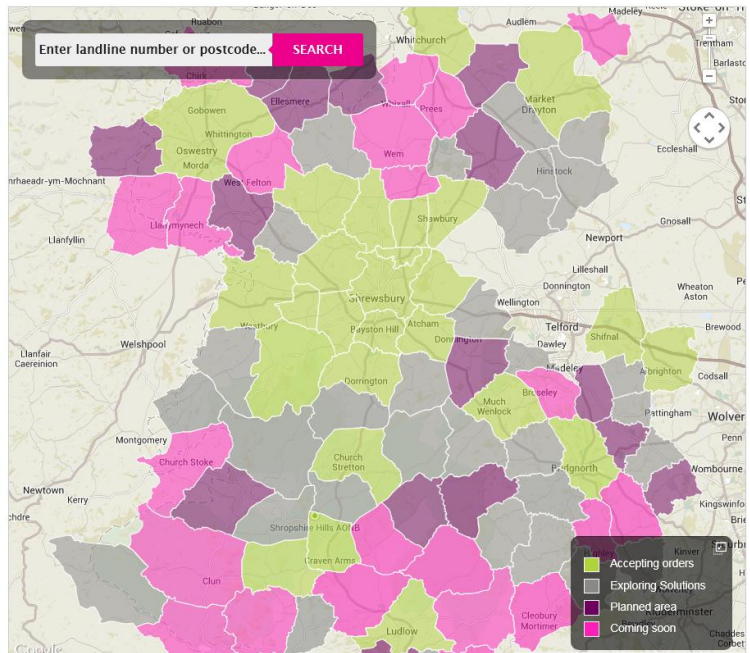
These exchange areas are listed as 'planned area' on the new exchange area map on our website, see the next article for more details...

Exchange area map and fibre broadband availability checker

Exchange area map

You can use this map in two ways:

- Hover your cursor over the map and click to get an update.
- Enter your postcode or telephone number in the search box to see which exchange area you are in, delivery timescales and whether fibre broadband is available.



Enter landline number or postcode... SEARCH

Map data ©2014 Google

Legend:

- Accepting orders
- Exploring Solutions
- Planned area
- Coming soon

In September, we launched a new online map and easy-to-use checker on the Connecting Shropshire website, designed to make it easier for people to find out the availability of fibre broadband in their area. It can be accessed via the Connecting Shropshire website at:

<http://connectingshropshire.co.uk/when-and-where/>

The map allows people to get up-to-date information about the status of their exchange area within the programme. The availability checker enables people to enter their postcode or telephone number to find out their exchange area, whether or not fibre broadband is available and estimated dates when it will be available to them.

Meet the engineers

Before the summer, we ran the first of our articles about 'a day in the life' of the engineers out and about building the fibre broadband network. In the second of the series, we met up with an engineer who was connecting one of the new fibre cabinets to get an insight into how it all works. Over to Callum, our roving reporter...

"I'm not an engineer, I just help out running Connecting Shropshire's social media accounts. So, to help me gain an understanding of what they do, the Connecting Shropshire team sent me out for a road trip with Openreach to see a little more about the nuts and bolts of how this whole fibre internet thing works.

So, here it is, from the engineers through me to you. To read more, please go to the news section of our website or

<http://connectingshropshire.co.uk/2014/10/fibre-fact-finding-expedition/>



Optimising Business Broadband



Last week the Optimising Business Broadband project held its two main events in Shropshire and Staffordshire. Both were really well attended and the participants were full of praise for the quality of the speakers and the content. To find out more go to the website and read the latest blog,

<http://www.optimisingbusinessbroadband.co.uk/our-blog/welcome-to-the-digital-revolution>

The event at the Shrewsbury Town Football Club was also attended by the 'Fibre Bus', to give people an insight into how the fibre optic technology is being rolled out (pictured).

Women and Broadband

The Women and Broadband project is continuing to deliver courses to women in business. There are still spaces available at events in October, including 'Getting started with Cloud Computing' on 14th October in the Mayfair Centre in Church Stretton and 'Social Media Tools (Pinterest & Instagram)' on 23rd October in the Festival Centre in Market Drayton. To find out more and book a place, please visit the website: <http://www.wirechallenge.org/>

Quiz answer

The mystery cabinet in the picture on the front page is in **Homer**, which is served by the Much Wenlock exchange.

This cabinet provides access for 116 homes and businesses in the village to the new fibre broadband network. Please remember that broadband speeds won't increase automatically, people need to upgrade to a fibre broadband package with their chosen Internet Service Provider.

Contact Details



www.connectingshropshire.co.uk



connecting.shropshire@shropshire.gov.uk



01743 252203



@ConnectingShrop