



June 2015 update

As of 4 June 2015...
34,654
homes and businesses
have been fibre
enabled thanks to
Connecting Shropshire.

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

Our online map and checker makes it easier for you to find out about the availability of fibre broadband in your area, and at an individual premises level. See: <http://connectingshropshire.co.uk/when-and-where/>

A roundup of what's been going on in the programme

New £5.6 million deal will deliver access to superfast broadband for thousands more Shropshire homes and businesses

Around 4,000 more homes and businesses across the Shropshire Council area will be able to receive high-speed fibre broadband following an additional £5.6 million of funding announced today (June 3).



Steve Holmes, BT Client Business Development Director, and Chris Taylor, Connecting Shropshire Programme Manager

The latest funding will extend the Connecting Shropshire roll-out which began connecting the first homes and businesses to faster fibre broadband around 18 months ago.

The new deal injects further funding into the Connecting Shropshire partnership between Shropshire Council, Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK) and BT, with £4.7 million coming from BDUK and £900,000 from BT. Additional funding already available from the Marches Local Enterprise Partnership and BDUK will be used to undertake a further procurement exercise by the end of 2015. To read the full story, go to: <http://connectingshropshire.co.uk/2015/06/new-5-6m-deal-will-deliver-superfast-fibre-broadband-boost-for-thousands-more-shropshire-homes-and-businesses/>

Connection Voucher Scheme for Shropshire businesses

Eligible businesses and charitable organisations in Shropshire can now apply for a Connection Voucher worth up to £3,000 towards the cost of upgrading to superfast broadband. Connection Vouchers will be made available on a first-come first-served basis until 31 March 2016 via administrators, Digital Birmingham. The Vouchers are available to any eligible organisation and can cover both fixed broadband solutions (usually a fibre connection), or wireless solutions such as satellite or microwave broadband, where fibre is not available.

For any business that would like to find out more about the Connection Voucher Scheme, further information can be found at <http://connectingshropshire.co.uk/connection-voucher-scheme/>, including details of:

- How the scheme works and what costs can be covered
- Eligibility criteria
- How to apply: <http://voucherapply.com/>
- Pooling vouchers to improve connectivity for a community or business park
- Suppliers that can provide connectivity
- Contact details for Digital Birmingham (administrators): voucherapply@birmingham.gov.uk

Fibre in Focus – The Haughmond

We recently visited Melanie Board, landlady at The Haughmond, Upton Magna to talk about how upgrading to fibre broadband has affected the business. The site has recently been transformed into a “modern coaching inn” and as well as being a pub and brasserie, offers visitors a new village store, coffee shop and five luxury ensuite rooms.



The Haughmond, Upton Magna

In this short YouTube video, Melanie talks about the business and the role that fibre broadband has in its smooth-running, click this link to view:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MYkmbXau1_c

Fibre optic broadband enables businesses to become more competitive by accessing technologies that are likely to reduce costs and improve productivity. Faster broadband can also facilitate mobile & home working, and makes all online activity faster and more efficient.

Mobile phone coverage Briefing

On Wednesday 3 June Shropshire Council hosted a high-level briefing for business leaders and other key stakeholders from the Shropshire area about plans to improve mobile phone coverage in the county. Key stakeholders from across Shropshire packed the council chamber at Shirehall to be briefed by Ofcom, the UK communications regulator, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and representatives from mobile operators EE, O2, Three & Vodafone. For the full news story go to:

<http://shropshire.gov.uk/news/2015/06/mobile-phone-coverage-in-the-spotlight-2/>

Optimising Business Broadband

Although the Optimising Business Broadband (OBB) project officially comes to an end this month, it will still continue on an informal basis. Look out for great digital tips for your business and further OBB events on social media. The website www.optimisingbusinessbroadband.co.uk will still be available as a free resource to help you digitally optimise your business with free downloads, YouTube videos on The Cloud, informative blogs and more.

Follow OBB on Twitter and LinkedIn:

Twitter: @OBBshropstaffs

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