![Connecting Shropshire logo]

September 2015 update

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

Special report: Getting high speed internet to rural areas - not as easy as you might think

The Connecting Shropshire programme gave the Shropshire Star a guided tour of the fibre network that connects rural Clungunford to the exchange in Ludlow, which culminated in a chat with local residents who have upgraded to a fibre broadband service.

Dan Czyzyk (Openreach Senior Project Manager) with Diane and Steve Lewis outside a fibre cabinet in Clungunford   (Source: Shropshire Star)

Here is a link to the subsequent special report that appeared in the newspaper on 8 August: http://www.shropshirestar.com/news/2015/08/08/special-report-getting-high-speed-internet-to-rural-areas-not-as-easy-as-you-might-think/

Women and Broadband project set to continue

£146,000 has been made available to allow the continued delivery of the Women and Broadband project after Connecting Shropshire, Superfast Staffordshire, and Superfast Telford, successfully bid for funding from Broadband Delivery UK and the Government Equalities Office. Women in Rural Enterprise (WiRE) will continue to deliver the project, which will operate across the Shropshire Council, Staffordshire County Council and Telford & Wrekin Council areas from the end of September. For the full news story, follow this link: http://connectingshropshire.co.uk/2015/07/146000-funding-sees-women-and-broadband-project-continue/

54 exchange areas are now 'accepting orders' with one or more cabinets providing fibre broadband from Connecting Shropshire:

- Albrighton
- Bayston Hill
- Bettisfield
- Bishops Castle
- Bomere Heath
- Bridgnorth
- Bromfield
- Broseley
- Bucknell
- Calverhall
- Chirbury
- Chirk
- Church Stretton
- Clee Hill
- Cleobury Mortimer
- Clive
- Clun
- Craven Arms

- Cross Houses
- Dorrington
- Ellesmere
- Great Bolas
- Hadnall
- Halfway House
- Hanwood
- Harlescott
- Highley
- Hodnet
- Knockin
- Lee Brockhurst
- Leebotwood
- Little Brampton
- Ludlow
- Market Drayton
- Montford Bridge
- Much Wenlock

- Munslow
- Nesscliffe
- Oswestry
- Pontesbury
- Prees
- Quatt
- Queens Head
- Richards Castle
- Seifton
- Shawbury
- Shifnal
- Shrewsbury
- Stoke St Milborough
- Upton Magna
- Wem
- Whixall
- Worfield
- Yockleton

Fibre in Focus – Morris Corfield

Oliver Morris, IT Director at Morris Corfield

Morris Corfield, a family-run supplier of agricultural equipment across Shropshire and beyond, took the opportunity to upgrade to fibre broadband as soon as the local cabinet was fibre-enabled by the Connecting Shropshire broadband programme.

We met their IT Director, Oliver Morris, to see how they have benefited from the switch: "As a business, the main difference has been the faster upload speeds," Oliver explained. "Here in Broseley we're pushing download speeds of 30mbps now, and our Craven Arms site is regularly seeing speeds of up to 60mbps, but the upload speed has risen from 0.5mbps to 8mbps.

To read more, please go to: http://connectingshropshire.co.uk/2015/07/morris-corfield-case-study/

DEADLINE - Connection Voucher Scheme for Shropshire businesses

The administrators of the Connection Voucher scheme have said that the funding available for businesses is likely to run out in October. So if you're considering applying for a connection voucher worth up to £3,000, we'd urge you to apply to Digital Birmingham as soon as you can. Further information can be found at http://connectingshropshire.co.uk/connection-voucher-scheme/

Digital Business Academy

Sign up to the Digital Business Academy courses to gain the business skills you need for a digital world, at your own pace, from your own place, online. http://www.digitalbusinessacademyuk.com

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