March 2017 update

As of 2 March 2017...

59,326 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

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

What's in a phase?

This month sees the end of phase 1 of the Connecting Shropshire programme and the start of phase 2, which is expected to be completed in spring 2018. The programme is set to transition seamlessly into phase 2 and parts of Beambridge, Ellesmere, Merrington, Montford Bridge, Prees Industrial Estate, Stanton upon Hine Heath, Uffington, and Weston Heath are expected to be able to make the switch to a faster broadband service from this summer. To find out about the availability of fibre broadband in your area, enter your phone number or postcode into the checker at: http://connectingshropshire.co.uk/when-and-where/.

Phase 2b procurement

Shropshire Council has received responses from telecoms suppliers for the third phase of the Connecting Shropshire broadband programme. Known as phase 2b, the initiative is designed to bring superfast broadband connections to premises where no commercial provision is currently in place or planned. The bids are currently being evaluated by Shropshire Council and Broadband Delivery UK. The outcome of the procurement is expected to be concluded in April 2017, when we'll have a better idea of which premises will benefit from this additional £11.7m investment.

Mobile phone coverage

Whilst Connecting Shropshire is working to improve access to better broadband, we also get contacted by residents and businesses enquiring about improving mobile phone coverage, both for voice and data services. The following link (https://checker.ofcom.org.uk/) takes you to a page on the Ofcom website where you can check which mobile network operator provides the best coverage for your home or place of work.

Ofcom is running a research project to help them better understand how mobile networks perform across the UK, as well as how people use their mobile data services. Ofcom would like people to get involved by downloading their 'mobile research app'.

More information is available on the following web page: https://www.ofcom.org.uk/phones-telecoms-and-internet/coverage/ofcom-mobile-research-app. Anyone with an Android mobile phone can take part in the project by simply downloading the Ofcom Mobile Research app. The app will then work quietly in the background on your phone, automatically measuring the performance of any mobile and Wi-Fi networks that you use.

83 exchange areas are now 'accepting orders' with <u>one</u> or more cabinets providing fibre broadband thanks to Connecting Shropshire (the eight latest additions are highlighted):

- Ackleton
- Acton Burnell
- Albrighton
- Bayston Hill
- Bettisfield
- Bishops Castle
- Bomere Heath
- Bridgnorth
- Brockton
- Bromfield
- Broseley
- Bucknell
- Burwarton
- Calverhall
- Childs Ercall
- Chirbury
- Chirk
- Church Stretton
- Claverley
- Clee Hill
- Cleobury Mortimer
- Clive
- Clun
- Cockshutt
- Craven Arms
- Cressage
- Cross Houses
- Ditton Priors

- Dorrington
- Dudleston Heath
- Ellesmere
- Great Bolas
- Hadnall
- Halfway House
- Hanwood
- Harlescott
- Highley
- Hodnet
- Ironbridge
- Kinlet
- Knighton
- Knockin
- Lee Brockhurst
- Leebotwood
- Little Brampton
- Llansantffraid
- Llanymynech
- Longville
- Ludlow
- Lydbury North
- Market Drayton
- Marshbrook
- Middleton Scriven
- Montford Bridge
- Morville
- Much Wenlock

- Munslow
- Nesscliffe
- Norton
- Oswestry
- Pipegate
- Pontesbury
- Prees
- Quatt
- Queens Head
- Richards Castle
- Ryton
- Sambrook
- Seifton
- Shawbury
- Shifnal
- Shrewsbury
- Stoke St Milborough
- Stottesdon
- Tenbury Wells
- Tern Hill
- Upton Magna
- Wem
- Whitchurch
- Whixall
- Worfield
- Worthen
- Yockleton

Making the switch to fibre broadband

If you're in an area that already has access to fibre broadband, you may have received a card like this through your letterbox to advise you on why and how to upgrade:

It's important for Connecting Shropshire to encourage people to make the switch to fibre broadband because the more people that do, the better connected the county is; meaning people are better able to participate fully in modern life. It's also beneficial because, for every percentage point above 20%, Shropshire Council will receive a revenue contribution (regardless of the ISP you sign-up with) through the existing contract mechanism.

This could amount to millions of pounds during the lifetime of the project (30% take-up would produce an extra £2.2m) and is the reason why we send out carefully targeted marketing information to homes and businesses.

What's not to love about faster broadband?

For the home
Open a new world of entertainment
- Download faster
- Stream on multiple devices
- Watch on demand TV
- Superior online gaming
- Stay connected to family

For business
Better business performance
- Faster uploads
- Cloud storage and apps
- IP telephony
- Agile working
- Web conferencing

Step 1: **Check availability** using our online checker at: www.connectingshropshire.co.uk/when-and-where

Step 2: **Find the best deal** by using a comparison website, such as: www.cable.co.uk/connectingshropshire

Step 3: **Place an order** with your chosen internet service provider to make the switch to fibre broadband.

"It's not just about a faster internet experience or doing one thing quicker, it's about everyone being able to do their own thing online, all at the same time. You can work or play - smarter, faster, better - whether from your smartphone, TV, tablet or computer."

Funded by UK Government   Shropshire Council   BT

Contact Details

⌨   www.connectingshropshire.co.uk

✉   connecting.shropshire@shropshire.gov.uk

☎   01743 252203