

### Update from Connecting Shropshire

Connecting Shropshire is a £26m programme to bring fibre broadband to the more rural parts of the Shropshire Council area, where private companies are not going to provide it as part of their commercial plans. The programme has already started to provide people with access to fibre broadband with download speeds of up to 80mbps, about 10x faster than the average for the county as a whole. More than 23,000 homes and businesses across a range of exchange areas, from Albrighton to Alberbury and St Martins to Clungunford, are now within reach of the new fibre broadband network that we're building.

It's a huge engineering challenge and we can't do everywhere at the same time, as we have to build the network out from existing points of presence. In total, we expect to put in around about 13,000kms of the new fibre optic cable, with completion due in 2016.

The parishes in the LJC area are covered by eight exchange areas. We expect availability of fibre broadband to start as follows:

Exchange area	Availability expected to start
Burwarton	Spring 2016
Clee Hill	Autumn 2014
Cleobury Mortimer	Started October 2014
Highley	Spring 2015
Kinlet	Autumn 2015
Stoke St Milborough	Spring 2015
Stottesdon	Summer 2015
Tenbury Wells	Spring 2015

Please be aware that these timescales may change. Also not all premises in an exchange area will get access to fibre based broadband and not all premises served by a fibre enabled cabinet will

necessarily get a speed enhancement. Not all cabinets in an exchange area will necessarily be fibre enabled.

The first of these exchange areas to go live is Cleobury Mortimer where fibre broadband is now available in parts of the Cleobury Mortimer exchange area. Cabinets 1 and 3 covering 800 premises went live in October and Cabinet 4 covering about 400 premises should go live around the end of this year.

To connect to fibre broadband, people will need to contact their chosen internet service provider to upgrade their broadband package, the broadband speeds won't increase automatically.

Visit our website: <http://connectingshropshire.co.uk/when-and-where/> to check which exchange area and cabinet serves your premises and to check availability of fibre broadband. Also on the website, there is lots of information including FAQs and why faster fibre broadband is important for homes and businesses.

If any Parish would like a member of the Connecting Shropshire team to attend a Parish Council meeting to provide an update, please let us know on [connecting.shropshire@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:connecting.shropshire@shropshire.gov.uk)