

## Update from Connecting Shropshire for Albrighton Area LIC

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.

The parishes in the LIC area are mainly covered by the Albrighton exchange area, which was one of the first to be upgraded to fibre broadband by Connecting Shropshire.

Most of the work to upgrade the roadside cabinets in the exchange area has been done so over 1,300 premises in the LIC are now within reach of the new fibre optic network. There is still one structure that is being built to serve about 140 premises in the north of the village in the Windsor Road area, this work is planned for autumn 2015.

Not all premises served by a fibre enabled cabinet will necessarily get a speed enhancement due to the distance down the copper line from the cabinet to the premises. We are aware that this is an issue in Tong and parts of Donington parish. However, all premises in the area will be provided with access to download speeds greater than 2mbps by the end of 2016 if they don't already get them.

**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.**



Openreach engineer Dave Bant working on a fibre cabinet

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.

Any assistance that you can provide in spreading the word to your contacts about the availability of this fibre broadband network would be fantastic. The more people that switch to the new network, the more likely that we'll have more resources to provide fibre broadband to more parts of the Council area. On request, Connecting Shropshire staff can provide posters and flyers as well as attending local events and other assistance.

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