



Autumn 2016 - What's new?



As the Better Broadband programme is now providing coverage in the truly rural parts of the county, it has been terrific to see the real-world differences decent broadband is making to people's lives. We held a small celebration for the arrival of fibre broadband in Cuxham at the excellent Half Moon village pub & pizzeria, with many people attesting to the benefits they are now enjoying – the locals can now gather and access email and internet without the owner, Vaska, having to ask guests to stop so she could transact a credit card payment.

Another success was to be had at Farmer Gow's farm in Faringdon where the introduction of a faster fibre broadband connection saw online sales for firewood in October 2016 almost exceed sales for the whole of 2014! We expect by the Winter edition of this newsletter, to have further coverage confirmed for very rural areas in Oxfordshire, made possible by efficient delivery to date and the shared dividend payable by BT for the good take up of services delivered by the programme.

Councillor Nick Carter, Cabinet Member for Business and Customer Services

Coming to a cabinet near you!

Since 1 October 2016, 3 more cabinets have gone live – including cabinets providing superfast broadband to premises in the vicinity of:

- **Grange Road area, Banbury**
- **Cullum Road area, Wheatley**
- **Roman Road area, Wheatley**

In the coming weeks, 3 more cabinets are expected to go live, providing superfast broadband to premises in the vicinity of:

- **Culham**
- **Summertown**
- **Wiggington**

For further updates about our delivery plans see [the coverage map](#) on the Better Broadband for Oxfordshire website.



Broadband is the toast of South Oxfordshire village

Cuxham residents, businesses and community groups were joined by John Howell, MP for the Henley constituency, on 2 September to celebrate the village getting access to faster fibre broadband for the first time. [Read more...](#)

Fibre makes farm more profitable

Farmer Gow's activity farm has been discovering the benefits of fibre broadband. Owner Anne Gow: "The difference between the old and new broadband service is huge. We used to get download speeds of around 2Mbps and now we see speeds of above 20 Mbps! This has given me savings in lots of unexpected ways".

[Read more...](#)



Residents and businesses can follow the progress of the roll-out via the [Better Broadband website](#).

People opting for an upgrade will be able to access broadband download speeds of up to 80 megabits per second (Mbps) and uploads of up to 20Mbps*.

Because the network is being rolled out by Openreach – BT's local network business – people have a wide choice of fibre broadband provider.

* These are the top wholesale speeds available from Openreach to all service providers; speeds offered by service providers may vary.

What is the Universal Service Obligation?

The Government recently consulted on a proposed new Broadband Universal Service Obligation (USO). The Secretary of State has commissioned Ofcom to analyse the key factors that will help inform the USO, but this will likely take the form that the supply market will need to offer anyone who requests it, a broadband service providing at least 10Mb/s download speeds at an 'affordable price'. On receipt of the Ofcom report, a further consultation will take place on the proposed change to secondary legislation to enshrine any such USO into law. It is not expected that local government will have an active role in this process.



Spotlight on Broadband voucher scheme

Homes and businesses in the most remote areas of Oxfordshire are being offered a subsidised broadband connection if they are currently unable to obtain an affordable broadband service of at least 2Mbps. The scheme is part of the UK government's commitment to make sure every home and business in the UK can access speeds of at least 2Mbps by the end of 2015.

Subsidies of up to £350 are made available to each qualifying household and users are then responsible for paying any remaining cost of installation and commissioning (if any) and ongoing service charges. [Find out if you qualify!](#)

Currently, there are three satellite operators providing services to Oxfordshire residents through the UK government subsidy scheme. You will find more information about these companies and the work they are doing in Oxfordshire through the subsidy scheme below.

- [Avonline](#)
- [Europasat](#)
- [Rural broadband](#)

Better Broadband programme financial update

Our Summer newsletter provided an update on the Better Broadband programme finances. This reflected a very healthy position with significant savings having been achieved as well as an early gainshare offer from BT reflecting the high take up of fibre broadband in Oxfordshire. We have been careful to work closely with BT in ensuring that further coverage made possible by the combination of these funds will be both value for money, and providing coverage where it is most needed. We now expect this additional coverage to be confirmed in January and our website will provide further information as soon as we have this contracted.

This months frequently asked questions

Q. When will I get superfast broadband?

If superfast broadband is not currently available for your home or business ([check online](#)), then [register your details](#) and we'll let you know when it becomes available.

Q. Why am I not covered in your plans?

We have increased our coverage target from 90% to 95%, but as we attempt to move beyond this, the additional cost of getting to very remote and sparsely populated areas becomes increasingly expensive at a per-premise level. We are working hard with BT to extend coverage further by way of more investment accrued by savings achieved in delivery, and trialling new technologies. We expect to announce an extension to coverage by Winter 2016.

To see the full list of most frequently asked questions with answers, [visit our FAQs page](#).

Visit us at the [Better Broadband for Oxfordshire website](#) for more information.