

## Kirkby Ireleth Superfast Broadband Update

The parish of Kirkby Ireleth is currently included in a programme to roll out superfast broadband (SFB) across Cumbria. Details of this programme can be viewed at [www.connectingcumbria.org.uk](http://www.connectingcumbria.org.uk).

The aim of the programme is to provide a broadband speed of over **24Mbps** (megabits per second) for 93% of Cumbrian properties and speeds between **2 and 24Mbps** for the remaining 7% of properties (typically in rural areas). The target date for completion is **December 2015**.

The current broadband speeds in Kirkby vary between 0 and 5Mbps depending on the distance of each property from the telephone exchange (next to the Burlington Inn), and are sometimes also dependent on the users broadband service provider.

As a typical example of current broadband speeds BBC Iplayer needs at least **2Mbps** to run without delays. In the future much higher speeds will be needed as more online services become available.

Recent problems with the current broadband service in Kirkby have resulted in a petition being raised for a better service and a Facebook group has been created as a forum. To share **current** broadband service problems please search facebook for a group called "**kirkby in furness needs high speed broadband**" and join the group.

When the SFB is rolled out, the broadband speed that each property can expect is dependent on its location and the funding available. For cities and large towns the funding has been provided by telecom companies, but for rural areas separate funding has been obtained from the EU. Rural areas have a lower priority within the programme and are more costly per property to implement.

Current broadband is provided on copper cables to the exchange cabinets and copper cables to the properties (using telegraph poles). SFB is brought to each exchange using fibre optic cables and then there is a choice of using the existing copper cables from the exchange to the properties or installing fibre optic cables to the properties.

It is too expensive to provide fibre optic cabling from the exchange to domestic rural properties. This means that the rural broadband speeds will not be as high as city broadband speeds and there is still a dependency on the distance of the property from the exchange. For some remote properties alternative solutions may be required.

The contract for implementing SFB across rural Cumbria was awarded to BT in June 2013 and the Connecting Cumbria project have recently provided an estimate of the broadband speed coverage for properties in the Kirkby Ireleth parish.

<b>Parish</b>	<b>Superfast Broadband Coverage (&gt; 24Mbps)</b>	<b>Basic Broadband Coverage (between 2Mbps and 24Mbps)</b>
<b>Kirkby Ireleth</b>	40%	60%

This is an initial estimate and the detail is very limited. BT said that on a similar project in North Yorkshire they achieved better coverage than estimated and were able to make use of recent technology improvements. It is hoped to achieve this for Cumbria.

The next stage in the rollout programme is for each parish council to discuss the estimated coverage with Connecting Cumbria and BT and obtain a more detailed understanding of what the coverage will be and how it can be improved if necessary. In cases where the community do not think the coverage is adequate then a community build may be needed. Additional funding may need to be raised for this.

One way to avoid having to raise additional funding is to demonstrate to the broadband suppliers that there will be a big take up of the new service. This can be demonstrated by each potential user registering at [www.superfast-openreach.co.uk/expression-gen.aspx](http://www.superfast-openreach.co.uk/expression-gen.aspx)

When the SFB has been rolled out for Kirkby Ireleth individual users will not be able to take advantage of the new speeds until they have entered a new contract with their current broadband provider or switched to a new provider.

For further information regarding the Kirkby Ireleth rollout programme please contact Paul Holroyd  
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