

Broadband Questions from Local Residents within Grange Park

1. Any idea what: Exchange only Lines/Network Rearrangement Structures; Which is the comment for my cabinet, means Time scale/Action wise?

To clarify, where Exchange Only Lines (EoL) are present in the network, a rearrangement of the network is required in order to provision superfast fibre broadband. To get this underway will require a level of intervention funding*.

2. Have read the document recently posted regarding the BT broadband rollout. On the list of cabinets and what the plans are for them, cabinet 84 appears on the list of 'upgrade in 2014' and 'intervention required'. Can someone confirm if cabinet 84 is indeed planned to be upgraded to FTTC in 2014? and why is it on both lists?

To clarify, should read 'intervention funding* required'.

3. I have just read with interest the information provided by BT at the meeting on 25.2.14. Unfortunately the link provided to find out your cabinet number isn't working so I am unable to find out what my cabinet number is. Also on Slide 6, point 3, it states that 2 cabinets will be superfast BB through the NCC/BT contract. Referring back to the meeting in the community centre last year, both BT and NCC were asked about this contract as people wanted to know what the details of the contract e.g. were there dates involved, is there a penalty for not providing BB by this date? Both BT and NCC were clear that there was no contract so could you please clarify this point.

To clarify, cabinets 24 and 82 have been earmarked for an upgrade to FTTC via BT's contract with the County Council. Further details on the rollout plan can be found via the following link (deployment map): <http://superfastnorthamptonshire.net/>

4. If I'm reading the document correctly BT are saying they need to do a copper overlay to make my cabinet, 91, work with fibre broadband.

Correct.

5. BT did a copper overlay 8 or 9 years ago in order to make my line compatible with the existing ADSL. Are they aware this overlay is already in place, or are they talking about doing a second for some reason?

The solution provided that at the time was fit for purpose but technology has moved on and a new copper overlay back to the exchange is required to enable the provision of superfast fibre broadband. A level of Intervention Funding* will be needed to provision superfast broadband.

6. Reviewing the latest pack shows cabinet 84 as being on plan for FTTC in 2014 but also requiring 'Intervention' (Exchange only Lines/ Network Rearrangement Structures) It would be great to understand what that means. Does this mean I'll be able to receive faster internet in 2014 or like others, will I have to wait till a later date?

See answer to Question 2.

7. Firstly Can you please clarify the impact of the Intervention Area, and Rearrangements Structure.

County Council to answer question referring to Intervention Area

BT – ‘Rearrangements Structure’ - additional engineering work is required to provision fibre broadband e.g. for TPON areas – this will entail the provision of a new copper overlay network. A level of Intervention Funding* is needed to provision superfast broadband.

8. Could you also advise where this leaves GP and the whole NCC superfastnorthants program. At the meeting at the community centre last year. It was made clear that the majority of GP was within the ‘Existing and planned commercial coverage of the Superfast Broadband by 2015’ area. And, I assume that it was on that basis that the negotiations/agreement of the Superfast Northants program was agreed. It was also noted at the meeting that the whole TPON issue was clearly understood at the time, so why this has now caused further issues/delays is confusing to say the least. As GP is apparently no longer within the commercial roll out area, what plans are there to review the superfastnorthant agreement between BT and NCC.

BT Response - over 600 premises located within Grange Park are now able to receive superfast speeds via BT’s commercial rollout of fibre broadband. For the remainder and following detailed survey work, we have established that a number of premises served by TPON or Exchange only Lines (EoL) will require significant investment to provision fibre broadband. The remaining premises fall within the Intervention Area for the County Council’s Superfast Northamptonshire programme where a number of these are to receive superfast speeds later this year via the County Council’s contract with BT.

A solution has been identified for the premises served via TPON or EoL however a level of Intervention Funding* is required to provision fibre broadband.

9. I wondered if you could please give me some information. I have recently been informed that my property is an exchange only line (Cabinet 83 Hardingstone) and there is no plan to currently install fttc or fttp anytime soon. Could you please explain why this is, when it is actually currently planned to happen and what advice you could give in helping me speed this up. This is critical for my business/family to be able to move with the rest of the developed world.

Hardingstone 83 has been earmarked for fibre broadband via BT’s commercial rollout however a timescale has yet to be set for the upgrade. One possible remedy in the interim is to install a broadband accelerator – see link:
<http://forums.moneysavingexpert.com/showthread.php?t=1236637>

10. Thank you for the update on the Parish Council website over the roll out plans. As one of the people who is subject to the "TPON" issue where "Intervention" is required, I wondered if you would have any information on what they are waiting for and when we are likely to have any news on this ? Would you know if BT intend to engage with the residents at any stage on this or who we can engage with in BT ?

BT is working through a full cost assessment to provision fibre broadband in areas currently served by TPON. Once this work is complete a further update will be provided to the Parish Council. We anticipate that this assessment will be ready for review by early May.

11. Just wondered if we could have more explanation on what 'intervention required' means as am on cabinet 83. I have just read the BT slides on the GPPC website. It looks as though 11 'TPON' cabinets require substantial infrastructure changes in order to accommodate increased broadband speeds. Can BT say if/when this work will be done?

Cabinet 83 – see answer to Question 9

Should read 'Intervention Funding* Required' – see answer to Question 10. We are not able to provide a timescale at this stage until the full cost assessment has been completed and a source of funding the 'gap' has been established.

12. Can you clarify (or ask BT to clarify) what the plan and timescales are for those people who fall into the category of "Intervention Required"? i.e. Most of the estate, cabinets 63, 65, 66, 67, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 90, 91 (TPON requiring copper overlay/FTTC) and Cabinets 64, 69, 72, 74, 83, 84, 85, 8 (Exchange only Lines/ Network Rearrangement Structures).

See answers to Question 10 and 11

13. Andy Cooke posted an interesting article (http://recombu.com/digital/news/rural-fibre-provider-gigaclear-wins-funding-for-superfast-oxfordshire-project_M12893.html) which says ...

"Gigaclear applied for the contract via an open procurement process conducted by West Oxfordshire District Council (WODC) after the Parish secured a Rural Community Broadband Fund (RCBF) grant from the Department for the Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). The RCBF is a £20million pot designed to help remote rural communities in the last 10 per cent of the UK, which aren't covered by the wider BDUK programme".

That seems to be us? How do we do get some of that funding?

Question should be directed to DEFRA

14. We are attached to a BT cabinet which falls under the intervention area. I was unable to make the meeting sadly, did you get any commitment as to when the intervention area is likely to be changed to fttc or FTtp?

Need to understand the number of the cabinet before this question can be answered

*a 'gap funding model' in which a third party provides funds to deliver investment where there is no commercial case to do so.