

Broadband in Bishopsteignton

Latest news - July 2017

In April this year it was reported that Virgin Media were taking an interest in rolling out full fibre broadband in Bishopsteignton. According to their website they still are. Residents of Bishopsteignton who are interested in improved broadband should register their interest at <http://www.virginmedia.com/cablemystreet/?refresh=true>

Since April, Connecting Devon and Somerset have announced the letting of phase II contracts to Gigaclear. Like Virgin this is for a full fibre implementation. The CD&S contracts, which use Government money, are intended to cover those premises which at the end of Phase 1 will NOT be able to receive “superfast” broadband (defined as being at least 24Mbps). However, it seems unlikely that Gigaclear will restrict themselves to providing services to just these properties. Once again I would encourage anyone who wants a better speed to register at

<https://www.gigaclear.com/postcode-checker/>

If you want to know what you should be able to get now and what you may get in the future, CD&S have a “When and Where” postcode checker at <https://www.connectingdevonandsomerset.co.uk/line-checker/>

I have a particular interest in Great Furlong where at the moment only 10% of properties are able to get “superfast” speeds so the news that CD&S are potentially funding Gigaclear to provide an FTTP solution is very good news.

BT’s Fibre to the cabinet (FTTC) broadband v Virgin and Gigaclear’s fibre to the premises (FTTP)

Broadband as provided by BT utilises fibre as far as one of the three cabinets in the village (FTTC) from that point on BT uses the existing copper or aluminium cable to deliver the broadband service to the customer. If your property is right next to the cabinet you may get as much as 80Mbps. If like me you are more remote and on the end of an old aluminium cable you will get very considerably less. The most remote property in Great Furlong for example is likely to get as little as 10-12Mbps.

The service offered by both Gigaclear and Virgin is a fibre optic cable all the way to the customer premises (known as FTTP). It makes absolutely no use of BT’s ageing copper or aluminium. Gigaclear offer speeds up to 1Gbps (1,000 Mbps), while Virgin offer a more modest 300Mbps. Both companies offer speeds way in excess of anything BT can offer.

Official Government statements on broadband provision

The Government is supporting investment to:

- provide superfast broadband coverage to 95% of the UK by December 2017
- provide access to basic broadband (2Mbps) for all
- stimulate private investment in full fibre connections by 2021

Local Full Fibre Networks Programme

Starting in 2017 to provide the fastest and most reliable broadband available, the Government will invest £200m to fund locally-led projects across the UK to leverage local and commercial investment to deliver more fibre connections.

Government funding will stimulate private sector investment in full fibre to ensure that fibre connections are available across more of the UK.

Source BDUK <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/broadband-delivery-uk>