Bringing faster broadband to our rural areas
Project Update July 2017
Please forward this PDF to your contacts –
we need to spread the word!

If you would like a Word version of this newsletter please email: broadband@cswbroadband.org.uk

Sign up to receive this e-newsletter direct to your inbox and for information about progress on your cabinet or exchange-only line.

Over 58,000 properties able to connect to the fibre network

Topics in this edition:
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Contract 3 update
As reported last month, we have multiple bids for each Lot in Contract 3. The bidders have clearly sharpened their pencils, and things are looking good for an excellent outcome. We will be able to announce the results during the autumn.

Autumn events
We are planning to run events throughout the project area to show what is happening now, and what additional rollout is planned for the future. The events will include Contract 3 information, so we need to conclude the negotiations and to have mapped the data before running the events. We hope to have completed this work and be able to visit each area (Warwickshire Boroughs and Districts, plus Coventry and Solihull) during the late autumn.

Calling all parish councils! (2)

Following on from last month's article, we will be working even more closely with parish councils from the autumn. What we would like to know now is what would parish councils find most helpful to assist in informing residents about the broadband rollout and answering questions? Some of the things that we are already doing include:

- We produce a range of articles (monthly) that can be used for newsletters and website – see below
- We send out this monthly e-newsletter to everybody who is registered on our system. Please register your details as soon as possible, since this brings additional benefits
- Once work starts in an area we email everyone who is registered onto our system to let them know what is happening
- Once the service actually goes live we email everyone who is registered onto our system to tell them that they can order a service from an ISP of their choice, with advice on how to do this
- We produce flyers to advise people when work is starting and again when the system goes live (but we do need help to get these delivered!)

What would help you, as a parish council, to keep your residents informed about the broadband rollout?

Please drop us an email to broadband@cswbroadband.org.uk, and we'll develop a plan that incorporates as many of the suggestions as possible.

Copy for your own website or newsletter

We regularly produce updates of around 350 words that can be used on your own website or in newsletters. There is a selection of articles available for download and you can select the most appropriate depending on where your particular area is in the rollout pipeline. We now have two versions: a web version with embedded hyperlinks, and a copy for print where the links are typed out in full. Copy can be found on Copy to use on our own website, newsletters or flyers webpage.

Questions and Answers

Here are some of the Q&A's raised recently. Our website has a full set of Q&As, which are regularly updated.

What happens when your area is announced for upgrade?

The CSW Broadband project is installing a fibre network. We can only go as far and as fast as the funding and resources allow, so the work is announced in Waves. New Waves are announced on a quarterly basis, and each one can take up to 12 months to complete. A number different areas are included in each Wave, and details will be given on our Rolling 12-Month Plan

After the Wave has been announced, it may take a while before there is any evidence of activity on the ground, but there will be a lot going on! Firstly, the detailed surveys have to be scheduled. Once these have taken place, the main work starts to bring fibre to the area. Sometimes there is a cabinet upgrade, where the fibre is brought to a new cabinet, which is stood alongside the existing copper cabinet. The two cabinets are connected and the final delivery is over the copper network. This is the

most economical way to upgrade the system, but it does have limitations, particularly since speed drops the further a property is from the cabinet. This is called FTTC (fibre to the cabinet).

In some areas, a different solution will be used, called FTTP (fibre to the premise). This offers much higher speeds, but is considerably more expensive to install and may not be suitable everywhere. The Rolling 12-Month Plan will identify which type of solution is to be provided.

To receive updates about progress in your area, and to be advised when the service is ready to order, please register through our website. Don't forget to give all information requested including a landline as this will help us to identify the connectivity to your particular property!

A version of this article is available on our website for you to use in your own newsletters and on local websites

Why can't you tell us more about Contract 3?

Because of the size of the contract, the procurement is being run under EU (OJEU) rules. These set out procedures and minimum timescales that must be followed. Because the contract is split into 3 geographic lots, the work also has to be done 3 times! We expect to be in a position to make announcements during the autumn.

You can find more frequently asked broadband questions on our website.

Help us to spread the word!

We need to reach as many people as we possibly can. You can help us by emailing this to all your local contacts and encouraging them to email it to all their contacts.

Why not join the CSW Broadband conversation on social media!

To keep up to date on what we're doing and to have your say on how the project develops:

Follow us on Facebook

Follow us on Twitter

Join us on LinkedIn

Email us!

For **newsletter** enquiries, please use: **broadbandnews@cswbroadband.org.uk**

For **all other enquiries**, please use: **broadband@cswbroadband.org.uk**

So that you don't miss out on any important news updates from the CSW Broadband team, please ensure that these are enabled in your firewall.

To find out more about the project, please visit the CSW Broadband website.

Funded by UK Government, European Regional Development Fund and the CSW Broadband Project

CSW Broadband is a partnership between Warwickshire County Council, Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council, Coventry City Council, BT and Department for Culture Media & Sport.