



Better Broadband



BETTER BROADBAND FOR OXFORDSHIRE

Connecting homes and businesses

February 2016 Bulletin



Welcome to the latest edition of the Better Broadband for Oxfordshire bulletin, bringing you up to date with the County Council's progress as we deliver broadband to communities and businesses throughout Oxfordshire.

This month we are proud to announce our exciting successes with the delivery of our Women and Broadband programme.

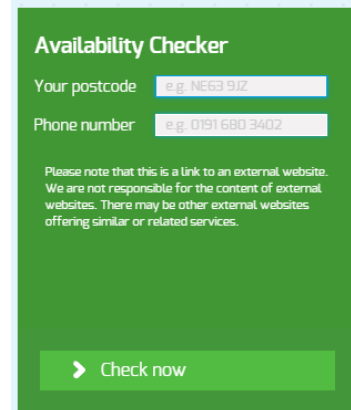
So far we have provided 23 workshops for women on a variety of Social Media topics in different locations around the county, delivering a total of 414 individual learning opportunities. This represents an 82% take-up rate.

We have also launched the new 'Satellite Solutions' service for homes and businesses in the most remote areas of Oxfordshire. This scheme offers residents and businesses subsidies so they can install a satellite broadband connection if they are unable to obtain an affordable broadband service of at least 2 Mbps.

And finally, looking forward to the next two years – with the new £8.3m funding recently announced by the programme, we plan to bring superfast broadband to even more homes and businesses across Oxfordshire by the end of 2017. This will mean that 95% of Oxfordshire premises will have access to superfast broadband services by December 2017. **Councillor Nick Carter, Cabinet Member for Business and Customer Services**

Getting connected

[Check online](#) to see if you can now access superfast broadband in your home or business. A full list of deals and contact details for your chosen service provider can be found by checking your postcode or telephone number on the [availability checker box on website](#).



The screenshot shows a green-themed 'Availability Checker' form. It has two input fields: 'Your postcode' with the example 'e.g. N653 9JZ' and 'Phone number' with the example 'e.g. 0191 680 3402'. Below the fields is a disclaimer: 'Please note that this is a link to an external website. We are not responsible for the content of external websites. There may be other external websites offering similar or related services.' At the bottom is a green button with a white arrow and the text 'Check now'.

Hot topics this month

1. Better Broadband for Oxfordshire on track, on budget and on time

The Better Broadband for Oxfordshire team is proud to announce that we are running on track, on budget and on time. Around 80,000 premises across Oxfordshire now have access to faster fibre broadband as a result of the Better Broadband for Oxfordshire roll-out, including many in some of the more difficult to reach parts of the county. Of those 80,000, more than 64,500 households and businesses have access to 'superfast' broadband speeds of 24 megabits and above.

This connection rate means that the programme has achieved what we promised back in 2013 when it started. We are now moving to stage 2 of the programme - delivering broadband to even more communities across Oxfordshire over the next 2 years.

2. Satellite Solutions – Basic Broadband Scheme roll out

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

The current rollout of superfast broadband is on track to deliver coverage to 95% of Oxfordshire by 2017 but we are determined to help those with the slowest

connections by providing, via this offer, an immediate boost to their available speeds ahead of any future planned improvements. 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. [More information.](#)

3. 'Women and Broadband' workshops

So far the BBfO programme has delivered 23 workshops for women on a variety of Social Media topics in different locations around the county, delivering a total of 414 individual learning opportunities. This represents an 82% take-up rate.

Topics from introductory workshops for complete beginners to master classes about integrating digital media into a new or existing business were covered. A Facebook group to provide on-going support and space to practise skills learnt has been set up.

The workshops are well received with feedback from attendees ranging from, "Learning so much new stuff. It was really informative getting an overview of everything and talking to help focus ideas and thoughts" - "Extremely well presented and obviously knowledgeable" - "Thank you for amazing courses you have put on this year. I have learnt SO much and met some wonderful ladies so am really looking forward to the next set in 2016".

There are a further 23 more workshops to be held by early March. [More information and how to book...](#)

4. Techpixies – update

There are a total of 12 women engaged with this project. In five intensive months the women – all returning to work after child care responsibilities - will be trained as social media marketing managers. They started at the beginning of November with classroom training and are now working with carefully selected local businesses/third sector/public sector organisations around the county to review their digital strategy and run out a digital marketing campaign. [More information.](#)

5. Gigaclear's roll out of ultrafast broadband continues across rural Oxfordshire

The independent telecoms provider Gigaclear, specialising in building and operating pure fibre broadband networks, continues to deliver gigabit connections in rural communities. Gigaclear's fibre-to-the-premise technology brings fibre all the way to the property and does not rely on the existing copper network.

By the end of 2015, Gigaclear had "invested nearly £8m in Oxfordshire", building new broadband networks, without the use of any public funding. The company currently expects to complete the installation of its 40th gigabit Oxfordshire community during the first quarter of 2016. [Find out how to get Gigaclear.](#)

6. Oxfordshire businesses get a boost from BBfO investment

Business Director Karen Reynolds (Creative Associates Design, Adderbury) had for years encountered difficulties uploading files in excess of 2Gb. Staff would have to work in the evening to upload big files because of the impact it had on their standard internet service, which would often simply 'time-out.' As an alternative, Karen's staff would send a USB in the post as back-up, which was a much slower method of transfer and would significantly impact her deadlines. It was clear that superfast broadband was needed to send and receive files quickly and reliably.

So when the new Better Broadband for Oxfordshire service arrived in Adderbury in March, Creative Associates immediately made the upgrade to fibre-broadband. They are now able to receive download speeds of 78.53 Mb/s and upload of 19.89 Mb/s, which has significantly improved the way they do business. They have also changed Internet Service Providers to receive a more suitable business package to their suit needs. [Read Karen's story here](#)

Common questions

Your map showed my postcode as being covered by now – why has it still not arrived?

Dates on the map are provided as guidance only. Delays to individual cabinets are

typically the result of awaiting wayleaves, needing to traverse private land, or extended traffic management order requirements.

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.

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 the Summer.

[More frequently asked questions are on our website](#)

Have you seen this sticker?

This Better Broadband for Oxfordshire sticker is placed onto a cabinet that has been delivered by the Better Broadband for Oxfordshire programme funding, when it has been fibre enabled. This means that the cabinet has gone live and is now ready to take orders for fibre broadband with your chosen [Internet Service Provider \(ISP\)](#).



If you would like to contact the BBfO Programme for an information request please provide your full postal address and landline telephone number so that we can investigate your enquiry more accurately for you; then send your email to: broadband@oxfordshire.gov.uk

For more information on the Better Broadband for Oxfordshire programme visit <http://www.betterbroadbandoxfordshire.org.uk>.



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