



# Briefing Note

Briefing Note: **North Somerset and B&NES Broadband Update**

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Date Issued: 1 August 2018

## Introduction

This updated briefing is primarily intended for Parish and Town Councils within North Somerset and Bath & North East Somerset who fall under the existing Connecting Devon and Somerset Programme. The note picks up a number of issues since the February update and we will continue to provide further updates when information is made available.

## Phase I – British Telecom (Superfast Broadband)

This phase was completed in our area earlier this year and resulted in approximately 159 new D-SLAM fibre enabled cabinets (FTTC) being installed either adjacent to existing green cabinets or along with new cabinets (mainly near exchanges). In a couple of areas such as Compton Dando and Loxton, BT installed a fibre to the premises solution (FTTP). BT are currently increasing the capacity of some of their new cabinets and are pushing out their privately funded installation in other areas (such as Wellow).

We previously highlighted the issue of Gainshare (or Claw back) when contracted take-up of the new BT cabinets exceed 20% and then monies would be re-invested by BT in further upgrades across the contracted area. The fine details of how this was arrived at were cloaked in ‘commercial confidentiality’ but we have been pursuing a response to how these funds are allocated particularly given that when Connecting Devon & Somerset issued a ‘public consultation’ on this and North Somerset and B&NES were specifically excluded.

We were further concerned by the allocation being based on data provided by the Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) which we know is heavily biased towards urban areas.

To date this issue is still outstanding as there will be certain parts of our area that will still be left without adequate coverage and the Gainshare was seen as best way of ensuring fair coverage.



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## **Phase 2 – Gigaclear**

The Phase 2 programme being undertaken by Gigaclear is now underway following an initial delay in procurement challenge and then a further delay caused by their appointment of new civils contractor following the closure of Carillion earlier this year.

Gigaclear have published a 'programme' for the area and are updating on an ongoing basis at the following link; <https://www.gigaclear.com/connecting-devon-and-somerset-rollout-schedule/> (this also includes a link to a Postcode Checker which contains additional premises level details).

Some of their 'community names' are a little odd and we have done our best to re-interpret them from their map into more understandable parish areas (some of which however duplicate) and this is reflected on the schedule in the annex which also lists the projects in chronological order for 'build start'.

This build start date though is indicative only and as far as our local intelligence shows the main area of activity is in the southern part of North Somerset (which follows on from the Somerset build) and in Failand. We use the <https://roadworks.org/> website to monitor activity. You can set up local weekly alerts for your own area and we would suggest this as an effective way of monitoring forthcoming activity.

We are not aware of any community engagement from Gigaclear which is disappointing as this was an integral part of their project and the contract conditions. This is concerning particularly given the level of impact this phase will have on local communities both in terms of build (installation of ducts) but also new cabinets, poles and associated street furniture.

## **Other Private Sector Activity**

Truespeed have been active across other parts of B&NES and North Somerset, mainly along the line of the Hibernia Atlantic duct but also branching out into other areas such as Bishop Sutton, Burrington and East Harptree. As this is privately funded they will be locally advertising their activity but again this will appear on the <https://roadworks.org/> site.

## **Street Works Framework**

In the last bulletin earlier this year we made reference to the Electronic Communication Code and accompanying the Code of Practice for cabinet and pole siting. DCMS have now issued a new street works framework document which "provides examples of good practice and includes a toolkit offering advice for local authorities and utilities wishing to collaborate in a cooperative working relationship."

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/727780/Street\\_Works\\_Tool\\_Kit.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/727780/Street_Works_Tool_Kit.pdf)

Our understanding is that the Electronic Communication Code extensively referred to in Bulletin 37a still holds and this revised framework provides further information that will be useful to Parish Councils when engaging with BT, Gigaclear, Truespeed or another contractor who will cite 'permitted development rights' for their actions regarding poles and cabinets.

Your particular attention is drawn to the siting of cabinets and poles in Conservation Areas, SSSI and AONB where early engagement with the contractors is critical when it becomes clear that there is a proposed or potential development. There are already a number of cases of compliant telecommunications 'permitted developments' that are outside of the scope of existing streetscape guidelines for B&NES<sup>1</sup> or North Somerset<sup>2</sup>

It will be particularly important to convince contractors to pole and duct share where existing infrastructure exists as again we are aware of cases already where a third duct is being laid into the highway rather than using existing ducts.

This new 'framework' document is primarily designed for use between the contractor and the local authority. However we are aware that the contractor is only primarily engaging with the highways department and may not include other relevant departments such as conservation or environment officers.

We will share this information with the other partners and statutory organisations but it is key for Parishes to be aware of the existence of the new Street Works framework and to hold contractors and Statutory Partners to account in its use and implementation.

We would be grateful if in addition to highlighting this to your local representative (Ward Councillor or MP) you could bring it to our attention as we are compiling a dossier of these cases to take to the relevant authorities.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/sites/default/files/sitedocuments/Planning-and-Building-Control/Planning-Policy/SPDs/streetscape\\_manual\\_adopted.pdf](http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/sites/default/files/sitedocuments/Planning-and-Building-Control/Planning-Policy/SPDs/streetscape_manual_adopted.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/highways-development-design-guide.pdf>

**Annex – Gigaclear published schedule – correct at 31/07/18**

<i>Gigaclear Ref</i>	<i>Gigaclear Community Name with corresponding parish clusters</i>	<i>Gigaclear Build Start</i>	<i>Gigaclear Build Complete</i>	<i>Phase 2 Eligible Target Premises</i>	<i>Parish Council</i>
37	Wolvers Hill	Under construction	Aug-18	207	Banwell Parish Council
				8	Loxton Parish Council
					Winscombe and Sandford Parish Council
1	Abbots Leigh	Under construction	Sep-18	79	Abbots Leigh Parish Council
18	Flax Bourton	Under construction	Sep-18	168	Flax Bourton Parish Council
24	Lower Langford (repeat Churchill)	Under construction	Sep-18		Churchill Parish Council
15	Failand	Under construction	Oct-18	301	Wraxall and Failand Parish Council
4	Brockley	Under construction	Q4 2018	62	Brockley Parish Council
33	Timsbury	Under construction	Q4 2018	59	Timsbury Parish Council
8	Churchill	Jul-18	Q4 2018	144	Churchill Parish Council
12	Compton Martin	Jul-18	Q4 2018	216	Compton Martin Parish Council
				47	West Harptree Parish Council
14	East Harptree	Jul-18	Q4 2018	30	East Harptree Parish Council
28	Sheepsway	Jul-18	Q4 2018	109	Portbury Parish Council
40	Wraxall	Jul-18	Q4 2018		Wraxall and Failand Parish Council
19	Hewish	Aug-18	Q4 2018	108	Puxton Parish Council
9	Clapton-in-Gordano	Aug-18	Q4 2019	125	Clapton-in-Gordano Parish Council
22	Kingston Seymour	Aug-18	Q4 2018	124	Kingston Seymour Parish Council
3	Bishop Sutton	Sep-18	Q4 2018	18	Stowey Sutton Parish Council
6	Camerton	Sep-18	Q4 2018	168	Camerton Parish Council
7	Chew Stoke	Sep-18	Q4 2018	36	Chew Stoke Parish Council
25	NYE (Nye Road, Sandford)	Sep-18	Q4 2018	248	Winscombe and Sandford Parish Council
35	Walton-in-Gordano	Sep-18	Q4 2018	85	Walton-in-Gordano Parish Council
27	Regil	Oct-18	Q4 2018		Winford Parish Council
2	Barrow Gurney	Q4 2018	Q1 2019	130	Barrow Gurney Parish Council
5	Burrington	Q4 2018	Q1 2019	194	Burrington Parish Council
11	Combe Down	Q4 2018	Q1 2019	365	City of Bath (Non-parished)
17	Felton	Q4 2018	Q1 2019	169	Winford Parish Council
20	Hinton Charterhouse	Q4 2018	Q1 2019	212	Hinton Charterhouse Parish Council
21	Kewstoke	Q4 2018	Q1 2019	282	Kewstoke Parish Council
23	Langridge	Q4 2018	Q1 2019	95	Charlcombe Parish Council
29	Shoscombe	Q4 2018	Q1 2019	182	Shoscombe Parish Council
30	South Stoke	Q4 2018	Q1 2019	66	South Stoke Parish Council

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31	Stanton Drew	Q4 2018	Q1 2019	28	Stanton Drew Parish Council
32	Swainswick	Q4 2018	Q1 2019	33	Swainswick Parish Council
34	Upton Cheyney	Q4 2018	Q1 2019	25	Corston Parish Council
				19	Newton St Loe Parish Council
				7	Saltford Parish Council
				7	Marksbury Parish Council
				69	Kelston Parish Meeting
36	Wellow	Q4 2018	Q1 2019	31	Wellow Parish Council
38	Wollard	Q4 2018	Q1 2019	71	Compton Dando Parish Council
39	Woolley (Inc in Langridge)	Q4 2018	Q1 2019		Charlcombe Parish Council
10	Cleeve	Q1 2019	Q2 2019	52	Cleeve Parish Council
13	Dunkerton & Tunley	Q1 2019	Q2 2019	120	Dunkerton & Tunley Parish Council
16	Farmborough	Q1 2019	Q2 2019	59	Farmborough Parish Council
26	Pensford	Q1 2019	Q2 2019	46	Publow and Pensford Parish Council

<https://www.gigaclear.com/connecting-devon-and-somerset-rollout-schedule/>