

Dorset County Council September 2014 Report

Broadband Project

To find out the progress of the project you first have to know which telephone exchange serves your area, which is not as straightforward as you may have thought. Below is the list of the areas within the County Council ward of Egdon Heath and the location of the exchanges.

Wool, East Burton and Moreton are served by the Bindon Abbey (situated in Wool) exchange. Winfrith and Chaldon Herring are served by the Warmwell Exchange; Morden and Bloxworth are served by the Morden exchange, Briantspuddle is served by the Bere Regis exchange and Affpuddle is served by the Puddletown Exchange.

Also I have received the following progress report from the Broadband office as to our area.

The information provided in this letter about superfast broadband in the Egdon Heath division is current as of 13 August 2014. It's important to remind everyone that plans can and do change.

Properties in Affpuddle and Winfrith are due to be connected by the end of 2014; Bere Regis, Bovington, and the majority of Wool in 2015; and Morden and the remainder of Wool in 2016. Bloxworth and Moreton are not due to be upgraded within our current plans; however we have genuine prospects for more funding to extend coverage throughout the county.

You'll find an interactive version of the coverage map on our website at www.dorsetforyou.com/superfast. It is updated on a regular basis to reflect fibre broadband availability and developments in our rollout plans.

In order to drive demand and take up of fibre-based broadband, we will be communicating with residents through several channels: local meetings, leaflets and posters, community newspapers, community events, gadget shows and liaising with other community groups in the area. From when engineering work begins in an area, and increasing after superfast broadband is available, these activities will raise awareness about the rollout, the benefits of superfast broadband and how to make the most of it once it becomes available.

Further we are enlisting volunteer Local Links to help raise awareness and distribute materials locally, and Digital Champions to help people who aren't already online get online and make the most of faster broadband.

We would appreciate if you would support the project by encouraging residents in your division to keep up to date with the project by signing up for our e-newsletter and registering to be notified by email when fibre broadband is first available in their postcode. And once we start work in an area, supporting local initiatives and being advocates of the Superfast Dorset programme.

The potential merger of Dorset and Wiltshire Fire Services

Dorset Fire Authority and Wiltshire & Swindon Fire Authority are consulting about the future direction of both fire services. Both the Dorset Fire Authority and the Wiltshire & Swindon Fire Authority are among the most cost-effective fire authorities in the country and have both been very successful in making savings in the face of reduced funding from central government, but like many public sector bodies they continue to face significant financial challenges. Over the next few years, they both have to make large savings that are unachievable unless they are prepared to do things differently.

In summary, the key choices are to what extent Dorset Fire Authority and Wiltshire & Swindon Fire Authority should collaborate, or whether the two authorities should merge into a single Combined Fire Authority for Dorset, Wiltshire and Swindon. There are opportunities for increased collaboration or integration of some fire and rescue support and community functions with local authorities, the police and the ambulance service. All of these choices involve working differently. The consultation documents are on the website as shown below <http://www.dorsetfire.gov.uk/working-with-us/about-us/strengthening-our-fire-and-rescue-service/> This includes the opportunity to give your views through the consultation questionnaire. The outcomes of the consultation process will be taken fully into account when the two fire authorities make their decision in November 2014. If you need more information please telephone the consultation helpline on 08000 352077

Gravel Extraction

Since the last consultation five new sites have been nominated for inclusion in the Mineral Sites Plan, four of them in Purbeck and the other one in Wimborne. The next consultation period on the Mineral Sites Plan will begin in January 2015. This consultation will include the five new sites, and the Mineral Planning Authority (Dorset County Council) will be indicating, on the basis of assessment carried out since the last consultation, which sites are likely to be taken forward and which ones appear to be unsuitable.

The new sites in Purbeck are:

Crack Lane, Langton Matravers, Purbeck: Purbeck Marble site, approximately 0.5ha. Located at the northern end of Crack Lane (north of Langton Matravers) where it meets the A351. To be worked in summer campaigns, according to demand.

Gallows Gore, Harmans Cross, Purbeck: Purbeck Stone site, approximately 5ha. Located approximately 150m north of B3069 and adjacent to Haycraft Lane, south of and adjacent to previous site nomination Quarr Farm.

Station Road, Moreton: Sand and gravel site, approximately 58ha. Located south/east of the B3390 and south of Station Road.

Hurst Farm, Moreton: Sand and gravel site, approximately 72ha. Located north/west of the B3390, north of Hurst Heath and south of the River Frome.

Further details of these are on the website at: <https://www.dorsetforyou.com/mineral-sites>

Surgery

Surgeries are held on the first Saturday of every month. These are held at the communal Lounge in Turberville Court in Bere Regis from 09.30 a.m. to 10.00 a.m. and at Wool in Knowlewood Knapp communal lounge at 11.30. If you have any questions or queries related to the business of Dorset County Council please come along. If anyone wants to contact me and cannot get to the surgery my email address is peterwharf@hotmail.com.

Peter Wharf
County Councillor