

Broadband update – November 2017

Churchtown – although the new cabinet has now been installed, this is a complex programme with a lot of work still to be done in routing the new fibre from the exchange to the cabinet, sourcing a new power supply from Electricity North West, and obtaining the necessary wayleave agreements. The deadline for completion of the contract is 31st March 2018, and assurances have been given that the system should be ‘live’ by that date.

Welton – progress has been delayed by the need to undertake modelling across a number of other rural areas which will be combined with Welton to form the next contractual Phase of delivery. Modelling of Welton village has been completed and, once contracts have been awarded, we are assured this will be treated as a priority and will be one of the early deliverables in the new Phase which will run throughout 2018 and into 2019. At this stage it is unclear which premises will be able to access ‘superfast broadband’ as the siting of the Welton cabinet is yet to be determined, but assurances have been given that it will be sited in order to cover as many premises as possible.

General – although these latest ‘go-live’ dates are a little later than previously forecast, having slipped for a number of practical reasons, it now appears that delivery is much nearer and our areas are being given priority treatment. Many complaints have been received recently that the existing limited broadband service is getting slower and, although there is no definitive proof, this is believed to be because of the greater number of people now using the internet and the resultant increase in traffic on the network which adds congestion. This phenomenon is well known to all providers and is unlikely to be resolved locally until the new superfast links are installed.