

CORRESPONDENCE FILE 2

Ordinary Meeting

7th September 2021

Fw: RE: Abergele Ultrafast Fibre Broadband rollout via Openreach

Info <info@abergele-towncouncil.co.uk>

Wed 06/10/2021 11:03

To: ATC Clerk <clerk@abergele-towncouncil.co.uk>

From: i

Sent: 05 October 2021 12:50

To: Info <info@abergele-towncouncil.co.uk>; David Jones M. P. <officeofdavidjonesmp@parliament.uk>; Cllr S. Rowlands. CCBC (Pentre Mawr) <cllr.sam.rowlands@conwy.gov.uk>; Cllr Roberts (Abergele TC) <cllr.broberts@abergele-towncouncil.co.uk>; cllr.g.frost@abergele-towncouncil.co.uk <cllr.g.frost@abergele-towncouncil.co.uk>; Cllr Eden (Abergele TC) <ccll.n.eden@abergele-towncouncil.co.uk>; Cllr Bond (Abergele TC) <cllr.bond@abergele-towncouncil.co.uk>; cllr.charlie.mccoubrey@conwy.gov.uk <cllr.charlie.mccoubrey@conwy.gov.uk>

Cc: Darren Millar (AM) <darren.millar@wales.gov.uk>

Subject: Fwd: RE: Abergele Ultrafast Fibre Broadband rollout via Openreach

Good Afternoon Councillors, Update on BT Openreach Fibre Broadband - Abergele. As you will see from the attached document, Mr Millar has been in communication with BT Openreach on behalf of the residents of the Links Estate. Our concerns still stand regarding 19th century Infrastructure for 21st Century technology, and with the possibility of this Infrastructure becoming obsolete within the next few years based on the StarLink Satellite deployments to provide low-cost internet to remote locations and the UK 5G roll out.

I trust that Abergele Council will continue to provide support to the residents who are opposed to this infrastructure and intervene in any Fibre Broadband rollout by BT Openreach in the affected areas

Regards

----- Original message -----

From: clerk@abergele-towncouncil.co.uk

Date: Thu, 9 Sep 2021, 21:21

To: north.wales.dfe@openreach.co.uk, clive.selley@openreach.co.uk,

Cc: Cllr Charlie McCoubrey <cllr.charlie.mccoubrey@conwy.gov.uk>

Subject: FW: Abergele Ultrafast Fibre Broadband rollout via Openreach

Good evening

CF & PI

Members of the Town Council received the email below at the last meeting of the Council and have instructed me to write to you, to confirm that they are in support of the residents request for the Ultrafast fibre broadband cables to

16th September 2021

Darren Miller MS
North Wales Business Park
Abergele
LL22 8LJ

Dear Darren

Thank you for your e-mail and accompanying petition from The Links Community in Abergele regarding feedback to the poling route proposed to bring ultrafast broadband to the estate.

I welcome the feedback that you have shared and would like to pass our thanks on to the community. As an infrastructure builder we do have the statutory right to site new poles for the purpose of rolling out the new broadband but on this occasion we did consult with the community ahead of planting the poles.

The Abergele exchange build is part of Openreach's ambition to extend our full fibre network outside of cities. Hundreds of thousands of premises from across Wales will benefit as part of our £15bn investment in full fibre infrastructure over the coming years that aims to connect 25million properties across the UK by December 2026 without the need for any public money. The work builds on successful cost busting trials launched at the tail end of 2019 which have seen engineers developing a range of new tools, skills and techniques to help us build full fibre in areas previously considered too complex or expensive to upgrade. By connecting more premises through commercial investment it enables public subsidy to be directed towards those properties that need it the most.

Across Abergele, Openreach are rolling out full fibre to as many premises as possible without drawing down public monies, it's therefore vital that we consider the most cost efficient solutions so that we can connect as many premises as possible.

We will always make every effort to minimise disruption by utilising existing infrastructure to roll out Full fibre but on occasion the legacy cable is buried direct into the ground and without any protective duct. On the Links estate there is a mixture of premises that we'd expect to be served via existing duct routes and a proportion that require the proposed overhead route due to no useable underground route. I've attached a map with colour codes for the area that was leaflet dropped to indicate the existing duct, where no duct exists and the locations of the proposed poles.

We always try to place our poles in the most appropriate location but whilst we're aware of the visual impact our equipment can have, the balance between cost effectiveness, aesthetics and safety can be difficult to achieve at times. As a result, there are times when we simply cannot avoid erecting poles in order to provide services efficiently, safely and in a sound engineering manner.

On this occasion, in response to community feedback we have already explored the options of an underground solution in the areas marked in yellow on the map below but this is cost prohibitive and by providing an underground solution it would divert investment away from building to circa 400 other properties in the exchange area.

Based on the feedback from the community we have placed parts of The Links estate impacted by the proposed poling solution 'on hold'. The list of impacted addresses is listed below, this means that we will not continue with the proposed full fibre build.

Connie Dixon
Strategic Infrastructure Development

Openreach Limited
Kelvin House, 123 Judd Street
London
WC1H 9NP
www.openreach.co.uk

Openreach Limited
Registered Office:
Kelvin House, 123 Judd Street, London WC1H 9NP
Registered in England and Wales no. 10690039

CF2 P2

We can revisit the position once we have surveyed all properties across the exchange area which I anticipate to be after this financial year.

Heol Conwy
Heol Elwy
Heol Colwyn
Heol Y Coed
Heol Heddwch
Heol Aled
Heol Awel
Heol Bodran
Heol Hir
Gomer Court
Aled Court

The outcome of this assessment could result in one of 3 options:

1. We continue to build with the proposed poling solution under our statutory right.
2. We make efficiency savings across the rest of the exchange that enables us to build using an underground solution. It must be explained that this is highly unlikely give the % cost increase and the fact that any efficiencies could be used to build to more premises that would otherwise not be connected.
3. We remove the premises from our full fibre upgrade plans.

We will communicate the current position with the community and advise that we will revisit the plans for the premises in question after April 2022. In the meantime, we'll continue to build across the rest of Abergele including other parts of the estate as indicated below.

We will be more than happy to consider option 1 above ahead of April, should the community reconsider their position and like us to recommence the build.

Yours Sincerely,
Connie Dixon

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CF2P3



Heol Elwy & Heol Cenny
 New Poles 8
 Duct Required 456m



Heol Colwyn
 New Poles 5
 Duct Required 461m

Heol Y-Coed
 New Poles 4
 Duct Required 140m

The premises below the black line are fed by existing duct. These are already in planning and will be built as planned, utilising the existing duct. ~130 of these addresses are included on the petition are within this area and are not affected by the polling proposal.

Heol Aled, Heol Avel & Heol Bodran
 New Poles 8
 Duct Required 839m

Heol Heddwch, Heol Hir & Heol Gomer
 New Poles 7
 Duct Required 406m

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