

Fibre :: A community approach

A stake in your future

Next generation services delivered on a world class infrastructure, mutually owned by the community

Scalable and Flexible

For the first time its possible to start small and grow a fibre infrastructure as your confidence and needs grow

You're not alone

CBN has over 200 members who have taken control of their digital future

A world of experience

CBN has partnered with world leaders in technology, processes and experience

Method in partnership

The seven pillars of our methodology ensure a flexible, structured, and successful partnership

The Next Generation

The broadband landscape has evolved faster than any other technological advance in history. The first generation has delivered near universal access in just a few short years, and community schemes played an important role in ensuring remote communities were included.

Second generation broadband is now being planned, with the promise of much faster performance and a new raft of services – but communities will need to be ever nearer to the exchange, and “net neutrality” will further control what you can use your connection for.

Community broadband will play an even more important role this time around, giving people the chance to take control of their digital future, and reaching the forgotten areas.

Small is beautiful

The received wisdom is that fibre-based networks must be vast in scale but it assumes a traditional telecoms business model. CBN has applied our members' experience of community-led broadband to develop solutions which can scale to virtually any size of community – from a rural market town or urban regeneration zone to a single street.

Our methodology, developed with Close the Gap, is based on seven pillars necessary for success; each is equally important and can only be achieved by working closely within the community.

- ✓ Sound business model
- ✓ “Us feeling”
- ✓ Basic set of services
- ✓ Unique local services
- ✓ Community communication
- ✓ Customer care
- ✓ A quality network

Broadband in partnership

CBN has combined its members' experience and the methodology to ensure communities get the support, processes, and structure they need. Recognising the strength in a community is in its uniqueness, we mould the partnership to each project allowing the community to take on as much or as little as they choose, unlocking the potential while underpinning the sustainability.

Working in concert with our technology partners ensures the investment can grow and adapt with an ever changing community.



About CBN

The Community Broadband Network was launched in January 2004 by the then Rural Affairs Minister Alun Michael and Broadband Minister Stephen Timms. The CBN is a co-operative of community-run independent broadband operators, aiming to encourage and support the provision of local broadband services as an alternative to the large national service providers.

CBN member projects typically cover rural countryside, where other forms of broadband can be scarce, or urban areas identified for regeneration where a traditional broadband infrastructure may not fulfil the needs of local people.

Over the past two years, the focus of the CBN members has begun to shift towards the provision of higher-speed next-generation broadband services, including higher-capacity wireless and fibre-optic networks.

There is an increasingly important role for community broadband projects even after traditional operators have provided base services into an area. A community broadband solution is a strategic solution to local requirements, constantly innovating and evolving with the community.

CBN's partners

CBN has partnered with some of the world's most experienced innovators, enabling communities to benefit from the best technology, processes, and advice available.



Emtelle, based in Hawick, Scotland, are the world leading innovators in "blown-fibre" technology. Nuenen and projects across Scandinavia and America are testament to how Emtelle make fibre networks quicker to build and more flexible to maintain than ever before.



Allied Telesys pioneer advanced, smart network equipment, making fibre projects flexible, manageable, and fast.



Sharedband is an innovative UK start-up making the final connection to the Internet more scalable and resilient than ever before.



Close the Gap, the company behind the Nuenen project, brings to CBN its wealth of experience and methodology drawn from delivering some of Europe's most remarkable fibre community networks.

For further information



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