



Department for Culture Media & Sport

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Chris Davies MP
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Dear Chris,

Thank you for your letter of 1 October on behalf of your constituent Mr Ian Mitchell of Gwynne Fawr Community Interest Company about rural broadband.

As you may be aware, £1.7 billion of public funding has been committed to support improvements in broadband services across the UK. Over £66.96 million of central government funding has been allocated to the Superfast Cymru project. The devolved government have also put significant resource into this project, with an additional £66.93 Million of their own. This is a significant commitment by local and national government for broadband roll-out

Over 455,725 homes and businesses are now able to access superfast broadband in Wales/Cymru as a result of the local project, and over 728,300 premises will have access to superfast broadband due to public investment when Phase 2 of the Superfast Cymru project is complete. Including commercial roll out, this will bring superfast coverage in Wales/Cymru to almost 96.7 % of premises.

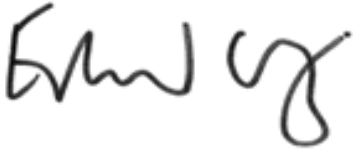
I think the size and success of this project should be celebrated.

The community interest company Mr Mitchell speaks about is an interesting model, and not the only one to exist in the UK. I would recommend he discusses his proposals with B4RN (Broadband for the Rural North) - who are leading a similar organisation and work programme in rural Cumbria in a very hands on way and delivering high capacity/speed networks in challenging terrain. More information is available on <http://b4rn.org.uk/>.

It would also be worthwhile liaising with Superfast Cymru as the BDUK funded partner. They may be able to suggest suppliers, or alternative technologies to get high speed connection from the exchanges at Crickhowell and Llanvihangel Crucorney. If either of these discussions fail to get the results the company desires, they could look for direct quotes from alternative operators such as Hyperoptic, Airband, Gigaclear or Call Flow.



I look forward to seeing how the Grwyn Fawr Community Interest Company grows and I hope that this information is helpful.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ed Vaizey', with a stylized, cursive script.

Ed Vaizey MP

Minister for Culture and the Digital Economy