

Gwyddom bod cysylltedd digidol gwael yn parhau i fod yn broblem ddifrifol mewn llawer o ardaloedd gwledig ar draws Ceredigion a bod mynediad at wasanaethau ar-lein a'r defnydd ohonynt yn adlewyrchu anghydraddoldebau eraill mewn cymdeithas; a bod hwn yn gallu achosi tan berfformio economaidd ac arwain at dodi gwledig pellach yn ein sir. Gall cysylltedd gwael arwain at golli cyfleoedd economaidd heb sôn am ei effaith ar addysg ein plant a bobl ifanc.

Ar ôl bod yn trafod a chydweithio â chymunedau lleol ers dros 2 flynedd roedd y darparwr rhwydwaith amgen, 'Broadway Partners', wedi ymdrechu'n ddygn i osod eu rhwydwaith *Ffibr i'r Adeilad* eu hunain, sydd â gallu gigabit, ar draws gogledd Ceredigion. Rhywbeth a allai chwyldroi bywydau nifer o'n trigolion ac a fyddai yn gwella twf economaidd ar draws y sir.

Amlinellwyd a chaniatawyd 5 prosiect i 'Broadway Partners' yng ngogledd Ceredigion, ond yn ddiweddar mae BDUK (*Building Digital UK*) wedi oedi cyllid ar gyfer 2 o'r prosiectau (sef Ysgubor y Coed a Phontarfynach), gan nodi y byddai'r ardaloedd hyn bellach yn debygol o ddod i fewn i gwmpas yr ymarfer caffael ledled Cymru, a gynhelir gan BDUK. Roedd hyn yn chwalu cynllun 'Broadway partners' i bob pwrrpas.

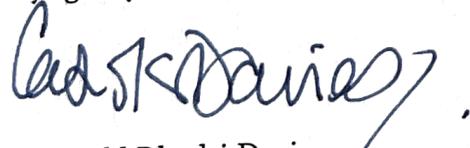
Galwodd 'Broadway Partners' y gweinyddwyr i fewn ddiwedd Mai 2023. Mae'r gweinyddwyr ar hyn o bryd yn chwilio am brynwyr i gymryd drosodd rhan neu'r cyfan o'r fusnes ac mae nhw'n gobeithio y bydd y broses yn dod i ben erbyn diwedd Gorffennaf 2023. Ond nid yw sicrhau prynwr yn gwarantu y bydd y prosiectau seilwaith arfaethedig yn parhau i gael eu hadeiladu yn wardiau Melindwr a Ceulan a Maesmawr.

Mae model cyllido presennol Llywodraeth y DU yn ei gwneud yn anodd i ddarparwyr rhwydwaith amgen lenwi'r bwlc'h cysylltedd mewn ardaloedd gwledig. Serch hynny, byddai'n briodol i Lywodraeth y DU ymyrryd i gefnogi'r cymunedau hyn, ac yn benodol helpu i ganfod cwmni a all gymryd drosodd y cynlluniau sydd wedi'u gadael heb eu gorffen ac i gynnwys yr ardaloedd gwreiddiol sef Ysgubor y Coed a Pontarfynach. Mae'r cymunedau hyn eisoes wedi aros yn llawer rhy hir am gysylltedd band eang digonol. Rhaid gwneud pob ymdrech i sicrhau nad yw'r cynlluniau yn cael eu gohirio ymhellach.

Felly, mae'r Cyngor yn:

- Gofyn i BDUK edrych ar fyrder ar ddarparu gysylltedd cyflym i ardaloedd Ceulan a Maesmawr, a Melindwr - y cysylltedd hwnnw a addawyd dwy flynedd yn ôl.
- Gofyn i Lywodraeth y DU, a'r Adran ar gyfer Gwyddoniaeth, Arloesedd a Thechnoleg, ymyrryd i gefnogi'r cymunedau sydd wedi eu heffeithio gan gwypmp 'Broadway Partners', ac yn benodol helpu i ganfod cwmni a all gymryd drosodd y cynlluniau sydd wedi'u gadael heb eu gorffen ac i gynnwys yr ardaloedd gwreiddiol sef Ysgubor y Coed a Pontarfynach.
- Noder gan Lywodraeth Cymru bod cysylltedd digidol yr un mor bwysig â cynhwysiant digidol (mae'n anodd cael un heb y llall) felly beth y maen nhw yn ei wneud i gefnogi ardaloedd gwledig Ceredigion sydd wedi eu heffeithio gan gwypmp y cwmni 'Broadway Partners'?
- Rydym yn gofyn am fanylion gan Lywodraeth y DU, a'r Adran ar gyfer Gwyddoniaeth, Arloesedd a Thechnoleg, ynghylch eu proses caffael *Project Gigabit yng Nghymru*, yn benodol ardaloedd o Geredigion sy'n dal yn ddigidol ddi-freintiedig, a hefyd am amserlen bendant ar gyfer dod â chysylltedd cyflym i'r sir gyfan.

Cynigydd: Cyngropydd Catrin M.S. Davies



Eilydd: Cyngropydd Rhodri Davies



Notice of Proposal to the Council – 13 July 2023

We know that poor digital connectivity remains a serious problem in many rural areas across Ceredigion and that access to and use of online services reflects other inequalities in society; and that this can cause economic underperformance and lead to further rural poverty in our county. Poor connectivity can lead to the loss of economic opportunities not to mention its impact on the education of our children and young people.

Alternative network operator, Broadway Partners had been aspiring to deploy their own gigabit-capable Fibre-to-the-Premises network across the north of Ceredigion after engaging with local communities for over 2 years. It could have revolutionised the lives of many of our residents and would improve economic growth across the county.

5 projects were outlined and approved for Broadway Partners' in the north of Ceredigion, but recently BDUK (Building Digital UK) has delayed funding for 2 of the projects (namely Ysgubor y Coed and Pontarfynach), stating that these areas would now likely fall within the scope of the Wales-wide procurement exercise, which is being conducted by BDUK. This effectively destroyed the Broadway partners' plan.

Broadway Partners called in the administrators at the end of May 2023. The administrators are currently looking for buyers to take over part or all of the business and they hope to close the process by end of July 2023. But securing a buyer does not guarantee that the proposed infrastructure projects will continue to be built in Melindwr and Ceulan and Maesmawr wards.

The UK Government's current funding model makes it difficult for alternative network providers to fill the connectivity gap in rural areas. Nevertheless, it would be appropriate for the UK Government to intervene to support these communities, and in particular to help find a company that can take over the plans that have been left unfinished and to include the original areas of Ysgubor y Coed and Pontarfynach. These communities have already waited far too long for adequate broadband connectivity. Every effort must be made to ensure that the plans are not delayed further.

Therefore, the Council is:

- a) Asking BDUK to urgently look at providing fast connectivity to the areas of Ceulan and Maesmawr, and Melindwr - that connectivity that was promised two years ago.
- b) Asking the UK Government, and the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology, to intervene to support the communities that have been affected by the collapse of Broadway Partners', and in particular to help find a company that can take over the plans that have been left unfinished and to include the original areas of Ysgubor y Coed and Pontarfynach.
- c) Noting that Welsh Government recognises that digital connectivity is as important as digital inclusion (it is difficult to have one without the other) We ask what are they doing to support the rural areas of Ceredigion that have been affected by the collapse of the Broadway Partners company?
- d) Requesting details from the UK Government, and the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology, regarding their procurement process for the Gigabit Project in Wales, specifically areas of Ceredigion that are still digitally underprivileged, and also for a definite timetable for bringing fast connectivity to the whole county.

PROPOSER: Cyngorydd Catrin M.S. Davies



SECONDER: Cyngorydd Rhodri Davies

