

## GigaPlus Argyll – Argyll Islands Community Broadband

It's high time that an update was circulated and I'm pleased to say that progress has continued to be steady and significant. At the end of June the contract was signed and I can now announce the company that we will be working with to bring next generation broadband to; Iona, Luing, Lismore, Colonsay, the vast majority of Jura and the remoter parts of Mull, Islay and the Craignish peninsula. The company is AB Internet who is a Lincoln based specialist company who have a track record of delivering broadband in not only urban but very remote areas. This is a major step forward and the real work has started.

Senior management and the project team from AB Internet have visited Mull not only to meet the full GigaPlus Argyll team but to commence the task of surveying the island and to become more acquainted with the ways of the Scottish West Coast. The first installations on Mull will be Loch Buie and Croggan and the aim is that these will be going live during the spring of 2016.

The surveys are being carried out by land and air to be as thorough as possible. Once complete a map will be produced of where the main transmitters will be needed to ensure a "ring" can be set up. By using a ring this ensures far better reliability as the connection to the Internet, known as the backhaul is in more than one place. Meetings with the area planning authority have started and the process of dealing with the significant number of planning applications is being negotiated. Similarly meetings with owners of the land are also starting.

Visits to the areas covered by the scheme are going well and proving both popular and very useful. So far I've been to Mull, Iona, Colonsay, Lismore, Craignish, Islay and Jura and I hope to visit Luing before winter sets in.

If you would like more information on the scheme please feel free to contact me at [rthorne@gigaplusargyll.co.uk](mailto:rthorne@gigaplusargyll.co.uk) or call 01680 812906