

GigaPlus Argyll – Progressing Nicely Thank you

Since December the planning and landowner negotiations have been carrying on. The total mast count is now up to 34, comprising 10 main distribution masts and 24 smaller repeater masts. The design is not yet finalised, so this count is likely to rise. The main masts make up the ring, which is a vague figure of 8 that transmit and receive the Broadband signal via radio waves around each of the 7 islands and a peninsula. The smaller masts direct the signal from the larger masts to the individual communities covered by the scheme.



This is an example of a mast that will make up the main ring. Most of the masts will be less than 20 metres tall.

The smaller masts will be self-powered and are known as Ecopops. These can be up to 10 metres tall, and can take 3 different forms; a steel lattice structure, like the large masts only smaller, a telegraph pole or a single pole with guy ropes.



Each of the Ecopops can be powered by a wind turbine, solar panels or both. All of the masts have been thoroughly tested to withstand west coast weather.

Landowner negotiations are going well with most being very supportive of what we are trying to achieve. One of our issues is that being a public funded, community scheme, budget is always critical so we are appealing to landowner's better nature to let us lease the mast sites at a very low rate.

The mast network has been designed but is still subject planning authority approval. Once a Landowner has given permission, mast site surveys are undertaken with teams visiting the sites to ensure the ground is suitable and the access can be achieved somehow. Following on from this, Planning applications will be submitted and it is hoped that within the next few weeks these will be approved and visible work can commence.

The scheme is still on course and should be fully up and running by the end of the year