European Network for
Rural Development

BALQUHIDDER
BROADBAND
CONNECTING THE GLENS

The Balquhidder community achieves hyper-fast broadband by digging trenches and using council funds to build its own infrastructure, reaching the fastest speeds in Britain

The **Balquhidder community** achieves **hyper-fast broadband**, digging trenches and using local council and LEADER funds to build its own infrastructure and reach **1 Gbps**.

Working in partnership with Stirling Council and internet service provider (ISP) Bogons, community interest company Balquhidder Community Broadband (BCB), **delivers hyper-fast, future proof and community owned broadband to all 197 homes and premises in the Balquhidder area**.

The project was funded in part by an initial £100 000 investment from Stirling Council along with a similar investment from its commercial partner and rural development funding from the Scottish LEADER programme.

Stirling Council and Forth Valley LEADER are jointly funding the project with a Project Officer post to the amount of £30 000.

Expected results

1. **197 Residential homes and businesses will obtain internet connections hundreds of times faster** than those previously available from mainstream internet service providers for less than most are currently paying.

2. **By creating a community interest company** which owns the network there has been a genuine collaboration between local businesses, local government, local people and the commercial partner Bogons, to lay the foundations for broadband connectivity in Balquhidder on a par with the rest of the world.

3. **The BCB project is expected to generate significant economic gains for the area**. Residents and businesses will be able to better access commercial and public services online.

4. **By delivering fibre to the premise (FTTP) it will be also able to ensure that the service can be easily upgraded in the future at minimal cost.**

5. **The parties involved are looking to help other communities.**

For more information visit:

http://balquhidder.net