

## **Group Broadband Schemes approved**

The Minister for Communications, Marine & Natural Resources, Noel Dempsey T.D., recently announced the approval of Group Broadband Schemes that will offer broadband services to most of South Tipperary and a number of communities in North Tipperary. Under the terms of the Group Broadband Scheme, broadband service providers will receive funding of up to 30% of the capital cost of providing the service to areas where broadband is not currently available.

All the Group Broadband Scheme proposals that were submitted for North Tipperary have now been approved. The following table lists the North Tipperary communities that will be provided with broadband services under the approved schemes and shows contact information for the broadband service providers.

<b><u>North Tipperary Communities</u></b>	<b><u>Broadband Service provider</u></b>	
	<b><u>Website</u></b>	<b><u>Telephone</u></b>
Borrisoleigh, Drom, Inch, Upperchurch, Holycross, Horse & Jockey/ Moycarkey, Two-Mile-Borris	<a href="http://www.premierbroadband.net">www.premierbroadband.net</a>	052 84626
Ballina town and Ballina Rural	<a href="http://www.irishbroadband.ie">www.irishbroadband.ie</a>	1890 56 44 56
Newport, Birdhill	<a href="http://www.westnet.ie">www.westnet.ie</a>	1850 930 305
Dromineer & district	<a href="http://www.fwi.ie">www.fwi.ie</a>	061 374379
Agliscloghane, Ardcroney, Borrisokane, CloghJordan, Kilbarron, Lorrha East, Terryglass.	<a href="http://www.fwi.ie">www.fwi.ie</a>	061 374379

In each case above, broadband will be delivered using wireless technology, whereby the broadband service providers need 'line-of-sight' from a local distribution point to the customer's premises. As part of the implementation phase, the broadband service providers will be holding a number of public information meetings in the relevant areas. Prices and other information are available from the websites and telephone numbers listed above.

Provision of broadband to the above communities is good news, since most existing broadband technologies would not bring affordable broadband services to those communities in the near future.

At present, a number of different broadband technologies are being used to supply broadband services to other parts of North Tipperary.

1. ADSL (Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line) broadband is used by Eircom, BT, Smart Telecom and some other broadband service providers to deliver broadband via a standard telephone line. Such broadband service providers usually offer an online facility on their websites where you can check whether your telephone line is suitable for broadband. There are a number of issues that determine whether you can get ADSL broadband.

- In order to offer an ADSL broadband service, your telephone provider must upgrade your local exchange. For example, Eircom has upgraded its exchanges in Thurles, Nenagh, Roscrea and Templemore and therefore only offers ADSL broadband in those towns.
  - Even if your local exchange has been upgraded for ADSL, the service is not usually available if your connection point is greater than 4 Km. from the exchange.
2. Cablenet broadband uses the cable TV network to deliver broadband and is available to Chorus customers in Thurles.
  3. Satellite broadband is available throughout North Tipperary from a number of service providers. In some cases this may also require the use of a telephone line.

Further information about broadband developments in North Tipperary is available at [www.tipperary.com/broadband](http://www.tipperary.com/broadband).

Alternatively, contact Anthony O'Reilly, North Tipperary Broadband Coordinator. Tel: 0504 28080. Email: [aoreilly@tipperary.com](mailto:aoreilly@tipperary.com)