



Super-Fast in South Lanarkshire? More like Super-Slow!

In a response to the recent press release from Digital Scotland, who are currently celebrating their achievements in delivering fibre broadband to South Lanarkshire: Conservative Councillor for Avondale & Stonehouse: Graeme Campbell said: ***“Super-fast Broadband in South Lanarkshire is more like Super-Slow!”***

Since becoming a councillor in 2007, Councillor Campbell has been championing the benefits broadband brings to a rural community like Avondale: ***“With 85% of Scottish companies being small businesses (SMB’s), it is more important than ever that our government steps up and supports faster delivery of faster broadband to all communities across Scotland,”*** Graeme went on to say. ***“It was a Westminster grant that delivered super-fast broadband to Strathaven nearly a decade ago and while villages like Stonehouse and Glassford followed nearly five years later: the technology Digital Scotland is delivering is lagging so far behind modern technology; I fear this just supports the fact so much of Scotland is now lagging behind the rest of the world and in a every growing global Digital economy and this is unactable!”***

Graeme talked about how Northern Ireland is bringing fibre much closer to rural homes (and businesses) across the province, yet Scotland fails to invest. When companies like BT Openreach need revenue and profits to support more investment in the network, it is always the rural communities that suffer. He is clear that the Scottish government are failing to invest in the infrastructure that supports businesses, who in turn employ people and grow tax collection to invest back into better public services.

In conclusion, CLLR Campbell asked the following: ***“The government demands that our farmers engage digitally but how can they do this with such poor digital connectivity? Government is also making the UK public do more online (EG. Passports, driving licenses, car tax, Universal Credit, Car Tax, PAYE self-assessment) and they’re right to because we can protect vital government services through efficiency savings delivered by technology and therefore better broadband but how can this be done when our broadband in rural Scotland is so poor? When parts of Hamilton can get over 150Mb/sec speeds; yet here in Strathaven I’m lucky to archive 26Mb/sec (on a good day: average around Strathaven and Stonehouse) and I know many of my constituents across rural Avondale are struggling to even get 2Mb/sec: why should we celebrate alongside Digital Scotland? More fibre is needed closer to our homes and businesses now if we’re ever going to drag rural Scotland into the Digital age!”***

CLLR Graeme Campbell (Scottish Conservative & Unionist Party)
SLC Ward-5, Avondale & Stonehouse