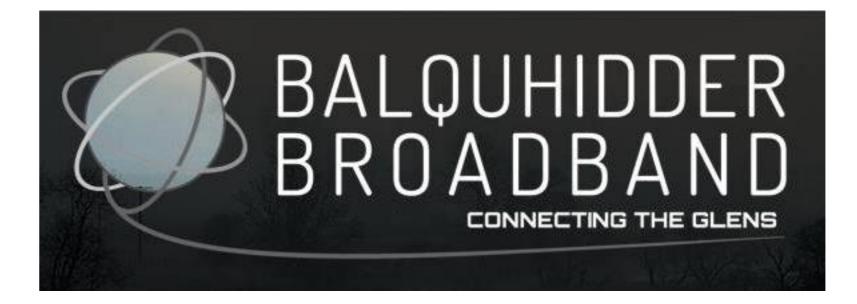


Smart Villages Seminar

22 May 2018, Brussels Belgium 'Revitalising Rural Services through Social and Digital Innovation' Albert Borschette Congress Center



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



For more information visit:

http://balquhidder.net

- 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.

