

Diane Donaghy

From: Katie Minton-Rowlands (Economic Development) <katie.minton-rowlands3@conwy.gov.uk>
Sent: 20 November 2024 11:33
To: TKBTC Clerk
Subject: SMART Towns Installations

Dear Kinmel Bay and Towyn Town Council members,

I am emailing this morning to provide you with an update regarding the SMART Towns project. I would like to take the opportunity to thank-you all for your patience over the last 12 months and more in getting this project approved and implemented, it has been greatly appreciated.

Phase 1 – Kinmel Bay and Towyn

I can now confirm that phase 1 of the installations for both Kinmel Bay and Towyn have now been completed. This means the main gateway equipment has been installed, and that the main areas of the town centres are now covered by the free wifi. However, the system remains in a testing phase currently, as such we have not made any formal announcements at this stage. The gateway equipment is the main piece of technology which enables the wifi to be installed and 'sent out', much like the hub in your own house.

Phase 2

We are now looking to the extension phase of the projects, which is to install the additional APs. These APs bridge the wifi signal being sent from the gateway and project the signal onwards to the next AP, rather like a daisy chain, or boosters in your own home when some rooms suffer with weak signal from the hub.

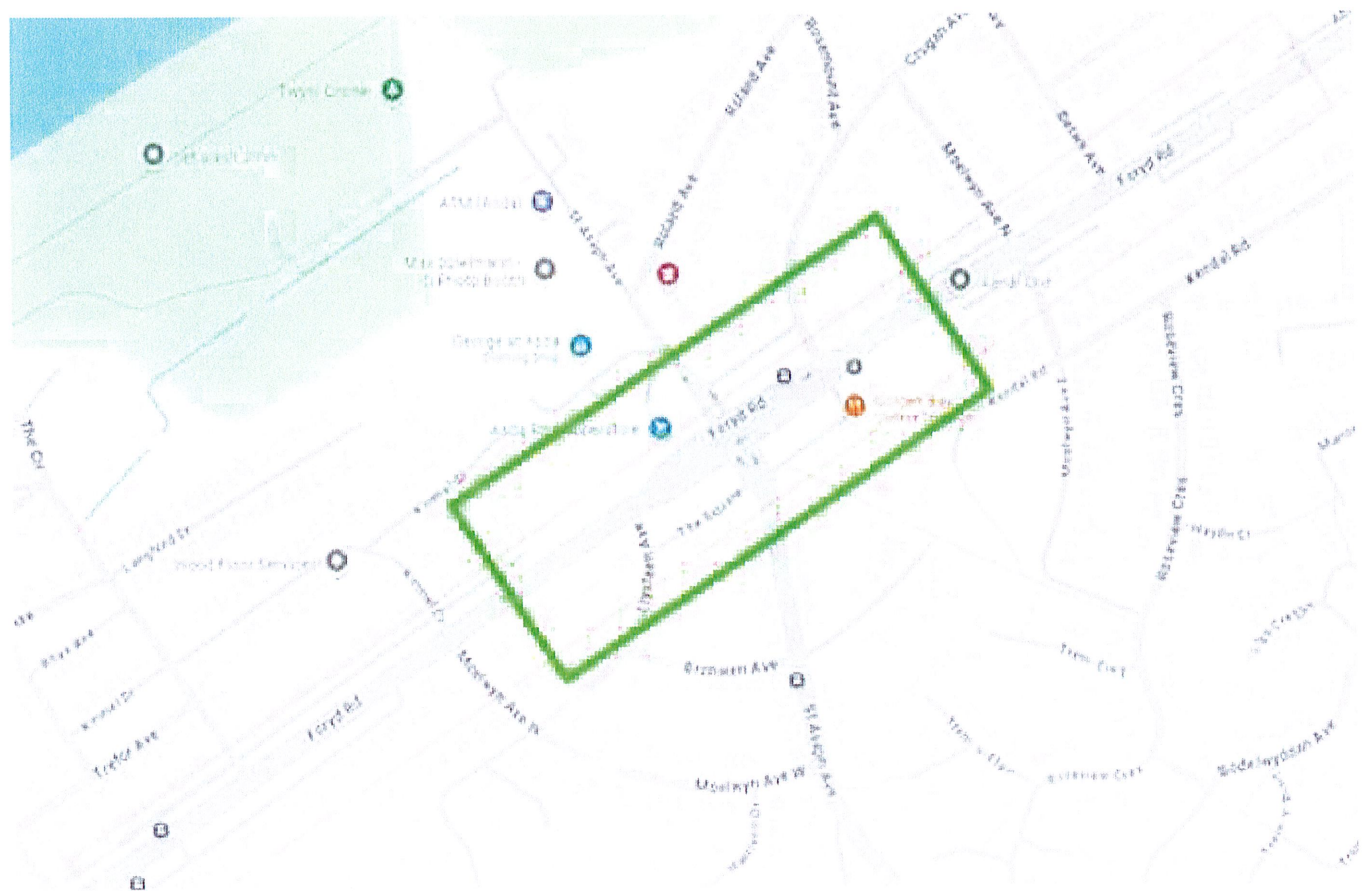
I have reviewed the original plans as scoped with IT in terms of the coverage we were looking to enable. Now that IT have installed phase 1 they have undertaken site inspections and can share with us plans detailing the coverage already available simply with the gateways in place. This has been surprising in a positive way. As you may be aware, we were able to obtain far better value for money and far better equipment than envisaged for the approved funding. This has resulted in the far greater reach in coverage than expected in both areas for phase 1.

Kinmel Bay Project phase 2

The original plans for coverage were as set out in the map below, marked in orange.



Now that the gateway has been installed on the crossroad area of Foryd Rd and St Asaph Ave we can share with you that the wifi currently covers the below, marked in green.



IT recently visited the area as part of their testing process, and have advised that the areas immediately to the east and west of the outlined green area is residential only. Given that the remit of SMART Town project objective is to provide digital solutions and information via wifi installations to Town Centres across Wales, our recommendation is that there is no justification to extend the coverage further than this. This would mean we would complete the Kinmel Bay project at the phase 1 installation only. This could mean a saving to the Town Council of over £3,000 in terms of your match funding as we will not be installing and maintaining all the envisaged and costed equipment. I do not have concrete figures for this at present, but will share these with you once they become available. We are aware that this is a variation to the original scope of the project.

Should you wish to continue to phase 2 in Kinmel Bay we will begin to look at solutions to installations of the additional APs as these are proving problematic at present due to power source availability within the lamp posts along the route. We would need to utilise lamp posts currently set up to provide power for the Christmas Lights / decorations.

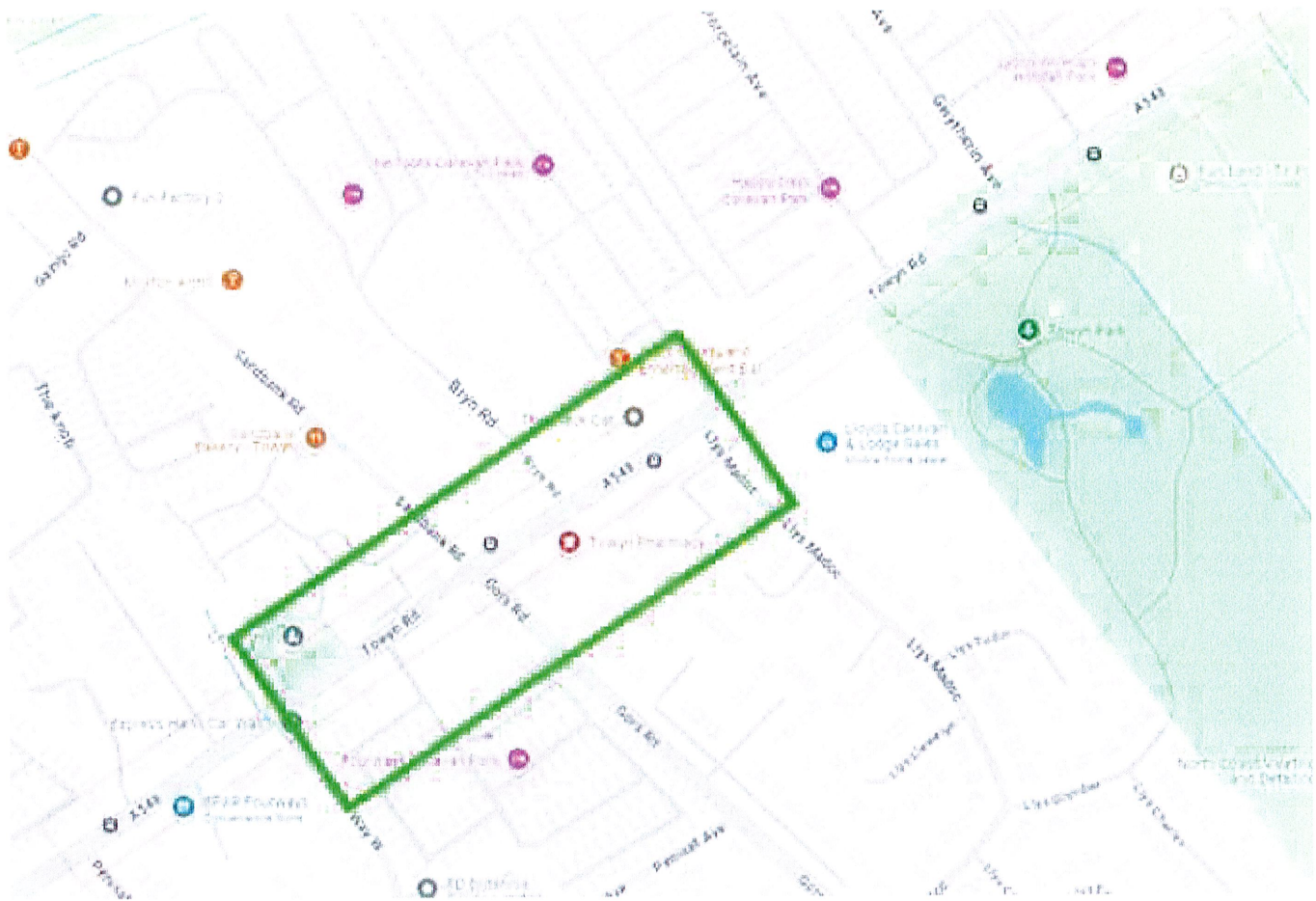
Please could you advise me if you want to proceed to phase 2 in Kinmel Bay, or whether you are happy with the installation as it stands which reduces your match amount by around £3,000.

Towyn phase 2

The original plans for coverage were as set out in the map below, again marked in orange.



Now that the gateway has been installed on the crossroad area of Towyn Rd and Gorse or Sandbank Rds we can share with you that the wifi currently covers the below, marked in green.



This falls short of the original scope, and remit of the SMART Towns project as the Town Centre are of Towyn continues to the west past Towyn Park, arguably ending at Tir Prince. We would recommend that there is no need to extend the coverage to the east as this again is a residential area.

Phase 2 Towyn

We are now ready to proceed to phase 2 in Towyn as per below. To complete this phase will involve utilising lamp posts 94, 98, and 102 as the most appropriate power sources which will most efficiently deliver the project with least disruption and cost savings for your match funding requirements. It will mean that lamp posts 94, 98, and 102 will no longer be available for use as part of the Christmas Lights / Decorations display, but does allow for the use of all other lamp posts along this stretch of road, and one side of the road in its entirety. This is marked in black below.



You will see the lamp post marked as circles in red. Phase 2 will allow coverage to extend throughout the Town Centre, up to and just beyond the entrance of Tir Prince. This allows for data capture for all devices which enter this area from either direction, and will allow us to explore data trends for footfall to and from the Town Centre, Tir Prince and how people move between these spaces. For example we should be able to see people arriving in the eastern end of the covered area, how they move through the wifi space; whether they go on to Tir Prince for example; how many people come into Tir Prince or the other westerly area of the wifi covered space how many then continue into the central area of Towyn, or simply exit to the west again.

There are further savings to be made, as again we have managed to utilise the higher specification equipment to our advantage and as such we do not need as many devices as previously scoped and costed for. I do not have concrete figures for this at present, but I envisage they would be in the region of £1,800 on the match agreed by yourselves.

As outlined we will be utilising lamp posts 94, 98, and 102 for the AP installations. As such they will no longer be available for Christmas Lights / Decorations. Please advise if you have any queries as we are currently looking to agree a schedule for phase 2 in Towyn

Many thanks,

Katie

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Ysgrifennwch ataf yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg
Please write to me in Welsh or English

Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg a'r Saesneg fel ei gilydd. Ni fydd gohebiaeth yn yr un iaith na'r llall yn arwain at unrhyw oedi.

Mae'r neges e-bost hon ac unrhyw ymgysylltiadau yn gyfrinachol, ac wedi eu bwriadu ar gyfer yr un sy'n cael ei h/enwi yn unig. Gallent gynnwys gwybodaeth freintiedig. Ar gyfer yr amodau llawn ynglŷn â chynnwys a defnyddio'r neges e-bost hon ac unrhyw atodiadau, gweler https://www.conwy.gov.uk/ebost_ymwadiad

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