

Community Fibre Partnerships



Case study: Coleorton, Leicestershire

One year on Leicestershire community is flourishing thanks to fibre partnership

Benefits more than compensate for cost

Residents of a small community in rural Leicestershire have been describing the ‘huge and positive’ impact that superfast broadband has had on their lives since they were connected to the Openreach fibre network.

It was back in March 2016 that the Coleorton Hall estate in Coleorton, and the nearby villages of Churchtown and Farmtown, were upgraded to fibre after striking a co-funding deal with Openreach through its Community Fibre Partnerships programme.

The story began when a group residents living in Coleorton Hall, a grade II listed building that’s been consisting of 12 apartments and 35 other properties, approached Openreach after discovering they weren’t included in any fibre rollout plans.

Improved quality of life outweighs cost

The community and Openreach worked together to reach a solution so that the estate, plus around 120 homes and businesses nearby, could be served by a brand new fibre-enabled cabinet giving speeds of up to 80Mbps.

Resident and broadband campaigner David Basten has been thrilled by the outcome. “We were all incredibly frustrated with the pretty feeble download speeds we were getting. But now we’ve gone from being one of the most disadvantaged estates in the country to being in the top half. The benefits we as residents are getting from our superfast connection definitely outweigh the costs involved.”

“Openreach’s Community Fibre Partnerships programme came up trumps for us. Since we first got in touch, everything has just flowed,” adds David. “The quality of life has definitely improved for all of us who now have a superfast connection. It’s already had a significant impact on property prices and that that has to be good news.”



The fibre cabinet was the 50th to go live under the Community Fibre Partnerships scheme. Pictured above are residents from the community who go together to co-fund for the upgrade.

More choice for subscribers

Residents of Churchtown, Farmtown and Coleorton Hall are now enjoying a superfast service on the network which is open to all communications provider on an equal wholesale basis, meaning they can choose from a number of internet service providers. The Openreach infrastructure is also capable of delivering fibre to the premises for even faster speeds of up to 300Mbps in the future, if people need it.

Jon Wohlters also lives in Coleorton. He says superfast has helped to improve many aspects of his whole family's lives. "For example, we can access the fullest high quality media which means my young children can take advantage of a raft of educational resources."

Jon recommends that other communities who aren't part of any fibre rollout plans should certainly consider working with Openreach via its Community Fibre Partnerships programme to get superfast broadband.

"Reaching a solution through the Community Fibre Partnership using the Openreach infrastructure was certainly worth it for our community as it is really helping to protect the housing market from any depreciation associated with poor broadband speeds"

**Jon Wohlters
resident of Coleorton
Leicestershire**

Communities interested in partnering with Openreach

Our dedicated team at Openreach is focused on helping communities understand what we can do, as well as to support them to bring faster broadband to parts of the UK not already covered by existing rollout plans.

For more information on Community Fibre Partnerships with Openreach, visit www.communityfibre.openreach.co.uk



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