

23 October 2009

Re: Broadband Access

As you may recall when I first became a Member of Parliament in 2001 hardly any of the constituency had access to Broadband Services. At that time I mounted a campaign to enable Broadband provision, the results of which were successful.

However times have moved on and the question now is not so much access, but speed and quality, and I have received correspondence from various Parish Councils and individuals on this subject; as it is the rural communities who are farthest from the Exchange and thus suffer the most problems.

I consider Broadband to be an essential tool for modern life, with more and more reliance being placed on Internet access. A good quality high speed Broadband provides individuals and businesses with the ability to communicate on a level playing field, irrespective of where they may be located.

It is my intention to write to BT on this matter, however before doing so it would be very helpful if I could have an idea of the type of issues affecting your Parish. Accordingly could I ask you to canvass people within your community and get back to me by the end of the year with your findings.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely