



INTERNET AND WIFI IN COMMUNITY SPACES

HOW FAST AND RELIABLE INTERNET CONNECTIVITY CAN BENEFIT
COMMUNITY HALLS, CHURCHES AND VILLAGE ASSETS

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Increase the Value of your Church or Village hall with Broadband and WiFi from Litenet

Church and Village Halls are vital community assets. Providing a space for local groups such as Scouts, Guides and kids clubs, rooms for meetings, and things like yoga classes, keep fit, and much more.

Providing fast and reliable internet WiFi in your hall can drastically increase its value, but it has never been that easy to install.

BT and Openreach have restricted the delivery of their services to places that have what is known as a "Gold" key address, that's one which exists on Royal Mail's database of premises. Lots of halls do not.

How do Litenet manage it?

Litenet have been working closely with BT and Openreach to get around this issue, and we are now able to place orders for broadband services for all kinds of addresses. That means it is now much easier for us to get a fast broadband installed to your hall.

Unfortunately there will always be areas that don't have broadband availability. In these cases we can use our 4G technology to provide a fast internet connection, so even rural church and village halls can benefit from a great internet connection!

What use is WiFi in our hall?

A good internet connection has many benefits, most importantly it makes your hall more attractive to hirers. Advertising that you have WiFi availability is a big plus when potential hirers are looking for a space.

It also makes your space more versatile. It opens up a whole new market, with a whole new revenue stream. We've seen hall spaces offering remote working hubs, with a small charge for users to come in, sit at a proper table and work in a comfortable and warm location, with other remote workers. Creating that social office environment for those people that are usually couped up in their spare room. Commercial "co-hub" working spaces are already very popular in towns and cities around the UK, and they're popping up everywhere.

WiFi allows hall hirers to access online learning, videos, social media and all manner of content that is vital in the digital age.

Larger halls can be used as conference venues or meeting space, allowing attendees to access work resources, presentations and more.

What options do I have?

Litenet are able to manage your internet and WiFi installation, including all hardware and cabling if necessary, to take the burden away from you. We know it can be a pain to deal with the big networks, but our experienced staff and wholesale channels will allow you to step away and let somebody else deal with it.

We have a host of different packages available that will suit almost any church or village hall:

- Self-Install – Openreach will attend site to install the broadband connection and we will ship a pre-configured WiFi router to you. All you need to do is plug it in and turn it on.
- Small install – Openreach will attend site to install the broadband connection and Litenet will attend to install the router.
- Large install – Openreach will attend site to install the broadband connection and Litenet will attend to install the router, cabling additional WiFi access points and configure the WiFi to your exact requirements.
- 4G Install – For rural locations, Litenet will attend site with all necessary equipment, access points and SIM cards.

Apart from the self-install option, which is the cheapest, Litenet will work with you to determine what's possible, where best to locate equipment and what is required from you. We do the rest.

We want to make the process as easy and hassle free as possible. We know that most churches and village associations are often run by volunteers who might not have the technical knowledge, time, or resources, so we give that to you.

Hall and Church Installations

Getting an internet connection into a typical church building is difficult. It's often not possible to run cables, either overhead or underground, through a churchyard.

That's why we have developed a system that can take internet connectivity from an easier source, such as the church hall where there are less restrictions, and beam it to the church using wireless technology. The system is reliable and fast and we already have lots of them in place around the UK.

Funding

We know that many of these facilities exist on a tight budget so we do everything we can to keep costs down.

We have identified good quality equipment at reasonable prices which we have tried and tested over the last few years. It's a step above domestic equipment, allowing for more configuration options and providing a higher level of reliability, while providing excellent value for money over some of the more corporate brands.

We do not specify equipment or services that are unnecessary or unwanted.

We have seen many customers fund their installations through grants, either from local authorities, their Diocese, or external organisations such as the National Lottery. Some have funded themselves in advance of the extra revenue they will generate, and others have asked for donations and sponsorship.

It is also possible to look into the advantages of group buying, where a number of local organisations agree to purchase and install at the same time. This allows for a project approach, reducing administration, increasing buying power and allowing us to allocate engineers accordingly. This also opens up more scope for grants.

Justification for grants

Applying for grants usually requires there to be a measurable benefit as a result. Below we have put together some of the key justifications that organisations might like to see before awarding any grants:

- Sustainability – A primary benefit. Internet connectivity allows for devices such as smart meters, remotely controllable heating (such as Nest or Hive), smart lighting and more. Being able to remotely control heating and lighting, setting timers and monitor usage can help reduce energy costs.
- Community – Providing connectivity to these buildings can enhance their use as remote working venues, meeting places (eg Parish Councils), classrooms, Sunday Schools, Scouts etc. Bringing people together and building a sense of community.
- Revenue – You may wish to charge users for access to the internet or increase the hire rate based on having this facility, but there are other benefits too. Being able to connect devices for contactless payment (eg SumUp, JustGiving or Stripe) means things like Village Fetes, Bring and Buy sales, Tea and Cake stands etc can easily take payment in an age where cash is increasingly rare.
- Heritage – The additional revenue can be used to better maintain the buildings, upgrade facilities and protect them from decay and decline. Preserving them as community assets for future generations rather than being knocked down and built on. Many of these buildings, although not listed, are very old and do have a lot of history associated with them.
- Inclusion and Diversity – Internet connectivity opens the space up to different uses, with different audiences and different abilities. It allows easy access to translation software for those struggling with languages, online resources such as sign language guides, and a space for those who don't have fast internet (either through affordability or lack of infrastructure).

Why Litenet?

We have a strong, proven, reputation for providing internet, WiFi, Live Streaming, Telephone Systems and more, to Churches, Charities and similar associations and groups all over the UK.

Examples of our work can be seen in the galleries on our microsite www.church-streaming.co.uk

Our business is to provide exceptional service to you, taking away the frustrations of dealing with big faceless organisations, the endless time spent on hold if there's a problem.

Your relationship is with US, and we will work on your behalf, answering your questions and managing your installation. All billing is through Litenet, all faults are reported through Litenet, so you know exactly where to go.

We understand that most of you will have limited time, experience or knowledge, so we are giving you ours. Our pricing is transparent and there are no hidden costs.

We're trying to make a difference.

Any questions or queries can be directed to us through the contact form on our website, or by emailing info@litenetuk.com