

Do you need the Mum Phone?

With the advent of taking the community broadband service, we no longer needed a BT phone line to have a broadband service. It was £372 a year and we could do without spending the money on a phone that rang when someone decided it was time they wanted to try to sell me something or my Mum called.

She comes from a generation who believe calling mobiles is very expensive (which it really isn't any more), but old preconceptions die hard. Every other friend and family member use our mobile phones because the reception is good in our house and more or less good in everywhere else we are likely to be.

Strangely you would think this is an easy decision, but it was not. We were changing the habit of a lifetime because we always had a land line and it felt strange to make such a fundamental change. Looking back now we wonder why we agonised over it. It was just a piece of outdated technology whose time had come and gone for us. The £372 a year has gone towards better things and the lack of nuisance calls is a delight. My Mum has learned that her phone doesn't explode when she dials my mobile number.

Now before I am too dismissive there is a good reason to have a land line and that is that if you phone 999 and are unable to give them your address they will ask your land line provider and they have to provide it within 1 minute of the request. They will then come to the address of the land line. People also lose mobile phones and let the battery charge die. So this is still not a simple decision and will be based upon your individual circumstances. If you are hugely forgetful or disorganised think carefully.

I am not saying ditch the expensive pointless land line. But at least take a moment to consider whether you should ditch the expensive mostly pointless land line especially if you have (or could have) a high speed broadband service delivered another way.

Before our change:

BT Phone and Broadband	£32 a month	0.5Mb/s (Not nearly enough)
Two mobile phones	£30 a month	

After our change:

WBCB	£25 a month	100Mb/s (More than we could possibly use)
Two mobile phones	£30 a month	

So we make a meaningful annual saving and for that we get Ultra Fast Broadband instead of the very poor service we were getting before.

Before you write in / harangue me in the street to say I surely get WBCB for free: no I really don't. Everyone pays the same and that includes all of the Directors and Volunteers.

Andy

West Berks Community Broadband

By the Community: For the Community