

Ultra Fast Broadband. Why?

Let's deal with the elephant in the room right up front. You don't need it. Ultra fast broadband is about improving what you can do and the choices you have about your families work and leisure time. It isn't essential.

5 years ago I had a service from Talk Talk that was under 0.5Mb/s. I shaped my life around what I had:

- It took three days to do a Windows 10 download and I could not access the internet for anything else in those three days. I had to remember to leave my PC on for an entire 24 Hour day every week so it could download the security updates to keep my PC safe.
- I could not work from home easily and regularly travelled 4 Hours and 120 miles a day to go to an office when I worked in corporate life just to access the company network, email etc. A journey I didn't need to make if I had faster broadband, but a journey I had to make because I didn't.
- If there was a program I wanted to watch on TV, I had to remember to watch it or record it. If I missed it, I missed it. You end up watching what is on, not what you want to watch.

I now have Ultra Fast Broadband

- It takes 10 minutes to do a full Windows 10 download. I don't need to leave my machine on to get downloads any more.
- I can work from home effectively
- Video conferencing such as Skype and Facetime with colleagues and family is easy
- The internet is instantaneous and there is no waiting
- I watch what I want when I want. We don't watch scheduled TV at all any more, everything is on demand via BBC iPlayer, Netflix, Amazon, ITV Hub, More 4, Demand 5 and UKTV Hub. I don't miss anything I am interested in.
- We use Amazon and eBay to buy things we needed online. It saves time, is cheaper and is much better for the environment than going to the shops yourself and the chance of finding the thing you want is much higher.

So you don't need Ultra Fast Broadband:

In the same way that you don't need an inside loo, you don't need water coming out of a tap in the kitchen and you don't need central heating. None of these things are essential and you quickly take them for granted, but they all make life a little better and once you have got used to them we would all object fervently if they were taken away.

Andy

West Berks Community Broadband

By the Community: For the Community