

Broadband access for Stonham Aspal?

What is Broadband?

Broadbandⁱ is an always on connection to the Internet at high speed, which can be supplied direct to your home or business using different technologies, such as by your telephone line, using a cable television supplier or even by radio or satellite.

The result is that you can connect to the Internet continuously any time you wish, and that there is none of the congestion or costs associated with dial up which most of us use in this area. Typical costs are from £20 to £30 a month for the technology which most of the people use in the United Kingdom, such as ADSL or Cable networks.

The benefit to our local community would be that

- people could work from home,
- set up and operate businesses from home and locally easily, and
- we could even offer free access to the Internet for those who have none at present.

We could even set up video to send meetings to those who cannot attend, and show events to those abroad. It might also serve to build community spirit, tourism and encourage business to the area.

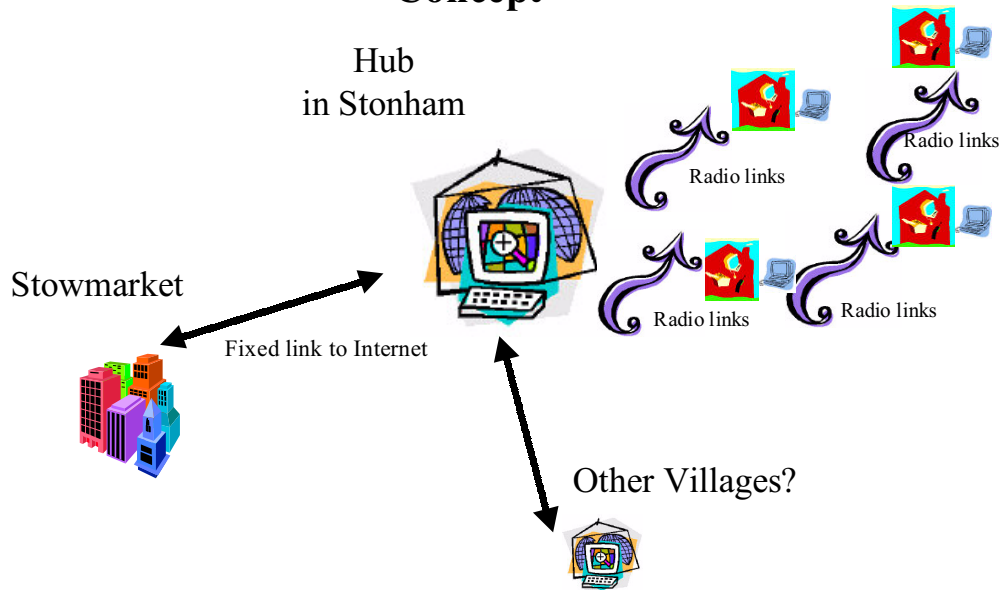
Why can't I get it now?

Usually British Telecomⁱⁱ enables your nearest telephone exchange when numbers exceed about 200 to 400 customers, so far Stonham Aspal has 30 so it will be many years before it reaches us.

How can we get it now?

Our nearest broadband enabled town is Stowmarket, so the only way we could get Broadband is for us to take matters into our own hands and put in a connection to Stowmarket, and for us all to connect.

Stonham Aspal Broadband Concept



CBB 12 Jan 2003

This is not as silly as it might seem, as there are many other villages and towns in our region that have done or are doing the same, one example locally is Badinghamⁱⁱⁱ, and many of the villages around Cambridge, Norfolk and Suffolk^{iv}. The East of England Development Association^v (EEDA) is even offering money for us to do this.

What would be required is that we get together as a group, get a loan (or even a grant), and do it ourselves. We would need to put in a direct connection to the Internet, bring it to a local point in the village, and then distribute it by radio to those who want it (and the connection by radio is very discrete!).

I am costing the whole initiative out and putting together a business case should I get any interest! I'd also like to hear from anyone in surrounding villages who might want to come in and share costs.

What does it cost and time scales?

I hope to be able to provide more precise costing in the near future, but costs should be less than conventional methods, depending on how we raise the money required. I would expect £20 a month or so, depending on how much interest we have (if we have a lot then costs will come down).

We do have about six weeks to get our request for grants in to the EEDA! If we move, we get could get broadband in 2003 in Stonham Aspal.

What can I do?

You can do a lot to help:

- 1) Please email me at broadband@brookson.com to let me know - I would like to know if you can help (I cannot do it myself), if you would like to use it (no commitment!) etc.

- 2) Put a message on the Notice Board on the Stonham Aspal website at www.stonhamaspal.co.uk
- 3) Register with the East of England Development Association for Broadband on <http://www.demandbroadband.com/demandbb/>.
- 4) Register with BT Broadband at http://www.bt.com/btbroadband/ns_home.jsp
- 5) Mention it to your friends, and spread the word for them to take a look.

Charles Brookson
12th January 2003

Links

- ⁱ See the Better Broadband for Britain site on <http://www.bbb.uk.net/>
- ⁱⁱ The BT Broadband site is on http://www.bt.com/btbroadband/ns_home.jsp
For all the details.
- ⁱⁱⁱ See <http://www.cix.co.uk/~rac/bcc/> for the Badingham web site.
- ^{iv} See one of the sites on <http://www.carnet.uk.net/> and this leads to many others.
- ^v See the East of England Development Association site on <http://www.eeda.org.uk/> , and their Broadband details on <http://www.demandbroadband.com/demandbb/>