



PRESS NOTICE

8 November 2003

Broadband success for Digital Wirksworth 'A First' for Derbyshire Dales

Less than a year after the launching of the Digital Wirksworth campaign group, members are celebrating the arrival of broadband in the town and surrounding villages.

At a packed meeting in Wirksworth's Memorial Hall last Thursday (6th November) local people heard how the campaign had secured a £30,000 grant to encourage the set-up of wireless broadband. Phil Reeves explained how members of the campaign had gone on to set up Wirksworth Connect Ltd as a not for profit company to manage the grant which was provided by RABBIT (Rural Access to Broadband Inclusion Trial).

Ralph Selby of Wirksworth Connect described to the meeting the tough selection process which had been set up to choose a supplier. The successful bidder was Ripley based Zycomm Electronics who market their service as W3Z.

Martin French of W3Z then took the floor and gave a demonstration of broadband including very fast web surfing, speedy downloading of files and a live web cam link with New York.

W3Z have been trialing their system with 26 'testers' and plan to launch a public service in Wirksworth and Middleton on 17 November with extension to surrounding villages soon after.

The meeting also welcomed the news that BT have finally announced plans to provide broadband to some parts of the area from 2004.

Quote Alastair Clark: "The arrival of broadband is great news for home users and businesses alike and it really looks like there will even be a choice of service by next spring. Healthy competition has to be good for consumers!"

For details of the wireless broadband services go to www.w3z.co.uk

For details of set-up grants for wireless broadband go to www.wirksworthconnect.co.uk

Notes to editors

A group photograph of campaigners with banner is available

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