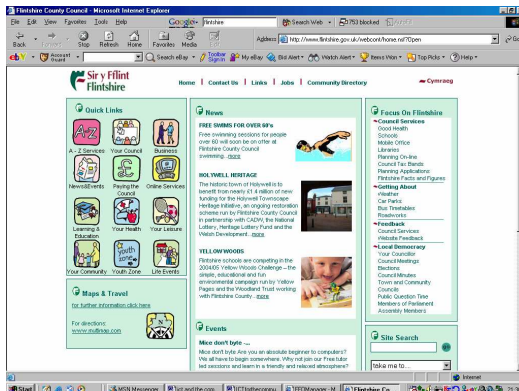


ICT and the community

I am going to investigate how ICT affects my local community:

Public Libraries

Members of libraries can use the ICT facilities there to access Internet and e-mail or even programs such as Microsoft office, which includes PowerPoint, Word, Excel, Access and FrontPage. Using the Internet at libraries can be a waste of time because sometimes the computers maybe slow or busy. When using e-mail it can be frustrating because some of the domains have been blocked, this only affects children mostly. Other computer hardware is available, for example, speakers, scanners or printers. Most libraries also give free access to their ICT equipment.



When using the libraries computers, most of the websites for children have been blocked. This is to stop misuse of the computers and noise in the library from children coming in and being noisy talking to each other while on the computer, playing games. There is also not enough privacy on what you maybe doing, for example, when logging on to certain websites someone could see you type in your password. You are also restricted to using ICT because of the

times that the library is open and in most libraries time slots of 1-2 hours are given. Libraries ICT equipment is not used to the best of its ability because some of the staff haven't been fully trained. This could affect the way some people are put off going to the libraries.

Cyber Cafes

People can go to cyber cafes and use the Internet relatively cheaply. The Internet they use is broadband, which is fast, and people can enjoy tea, coffee, other drinks and food whilst they enjoy the Internet at the same time. Cyber cafes share many of the disadvantages, as libraries such as time restrictions, lack of privacy etc. The cyber cafes are a bit more lenient when it comes to restrictions comparing cafes to the libraries. Hardware is also available in cyber cafes as it is in the libraries. Cyber cafes have their good and bad points. The bad points include the cost. Even though it's cheap, in libraries it's free to use ICT facilities. Cyber Cafes are a good invention and are helpful. They are a lot more popular than libraries and seem to be becoming a trend.



CCTV

CCTV security cameras are a step up in technology. They are great to help companies protect their businesses and keep safety levels high in the community. CCTV security cameras are a quick and easy way to make the community safer. In my local community they have just installed 16 CCTV security cameras to make the public feel safer and to cut down on crime.



CCTV security cameras come in all shapes and sizes and picture quality, some these days are able to zoom in and out up to a few miles away. If an incident does occur it's easy enough just to check the tapes and find information needed for the police. The police have evidence then to take action if needed and make the community a safer place to live in. The problem with having CCTV security cameras is it costs a lot of

money to capture the whole community, if this doesn't happen people would take advantage of the areas that are not seeable on camera. Another problem with CCTV security cameras in the community is that people think their privacy is being invaded. At the end of the day it's only for our safety the CCTV security cameras have been installed. Positioning is crucial though because for example, there is a tree in the way of the camera it would be pointless having the camera there. The good points about CCTV security cameras are they are great for doing their job on catching criminals and warning people there being watched and makes some people feel safer.

ATM Machines

ATM Machines are also known as "the hole in the wall". Most of the population in the local community own a credit/debit card many will use ATM Machines instead of going into their local bank because it's quicker easier and open 24/7. Many people are scared of using the ATM Machines because of theft, muggers etc. You must enter a pin number before you select how much money you require this is why some people are not afraid to use their card. There are many advantages and disadvantages about ATM Machines. It's been known for people to play around with the machines and put little devices into the section of the machine where you enter your



card to steal the information which can be used over the internet to buy goods. Some people don't realise all their money has gone until the next time they come to use their card, this is just one of the disadvantages. Another disadvantage is on some ATM Machines you may be charged for a transaction. Advantages about the ATM Machines are quite obvious they are quick to use, open 24/7 and are located in very convenient places. ATM Machines are a quick and simple way of drawing money out of your bank account and are used by millions of people. Without ATM Machines the banks would be very busy in the daytime.

ICT has changed the way my local community lives. My people now have an e-mail account or a computer with Internet access at home. Broadband is also available in the area of the community. The community spirit seems to be getting stronger thanks to CCTV and other ICT technologies.