

## The impact of ICT on your local community

The local community that I will be focusing on is Uckfield. I will be searching about there to find all of the ICT that they use around the area. There are many new and old technologies in Uckfield that can be accessed by anyone in the world. In this essay I will name all of them in Uckfield and will list some advantages and disadvantages of them and will evaluate the cost from the community for having them and how necessary they are for the community and lastly what would happen if we didn't have them in our community, what would happen to Uckfield if we had no technologies?

### Internet Café

The Uckfield Internet café is an Internet Cafe or Cyber Cafe where customers pay to use Internet connected computers. The computers are self-access which means the customer presses the keys, moves the mouse and looks at the computer screen. Currently we charge £2 for 1-hour computer access, with a minimum charge of £1. When you come in you simply buy a pay and display sticker from our automatic ticket machine to cover the time you would like to stay. Then you sit down and use a computer. Keep an eye on the time - if you run out of time you just buy another ticket. No membership is required. To just browse the Internet you do not need an email account, but if you want to send and receive email or purchase goods and services online then you are required to have your own email account. No booking is necessary. Just turn up and you can almost always get a seat. At the Uckfield Internet café the advantages are:

1. Internet access.
2. No need to queue for a computer.
3. Instant Internet connection.
4. Fast response time.
5. Stay as long as you need.
6. Print out easily on our laser printer.
7. Web mail and messenger access.

To use the computers you need to be familiar with using Microsoft Windows and a mouse. The Internet connection is business broadband and rated at 2000 kbps, which is about 40 times faster than a typical dialup. Continuous download speeds are around 200-300 kbps or higher depending on the service you are connecting to. There restrictions on what I can access, in purchasing computer time customers agree not to attempt to access any websites that might cause offence to others. Customers failing to observe this rule will be

asked to leave. You can access all email services including Hotmail, AOL, Yahoo, Freeserve, BT Connect, Tiscali, UEA, NUS, Wanadoo and many others. You can also view Adobe Acrobat, Word, Excel and PowerPoint attachments and edit Word documents too. All the machines have the latest Microsoft MSN Messenger and Yahoo Messenger software ready to use.

They also do have web cams. The web cams send video in real time when you are logged on to MSN Messenger or Yahoo Messenger. Let your friends and family back home see you live in the Uckfield Internet Cafe - and if they have a web cam then you can see them too! You can connect your laptop computer; you can connect your computer to the wireless access point. If you don't have an email account then click on Hotmail or Yahoo and you can create a free email account that you can access from anywhere in the world. You can send and receive emails as if you were at home using either web mail or POP3.

You can download files to take away. Small files can be saved by emailing to you as an email file attachment or saved on a 3.5-inch floppy disk. Larger files can be saved on CD using our CD writer. Also you can connect your own portable laptop or notebook computer to the wireless access point and save files directly to your own computer. You can use a floppy. A 3.5-inch floppy disk access is available on all of our computers. You can attach files from a floppy to an email, print files from a floppy and save files to a floppy. You can save on to CD-R. Some of our computers are set up with a CD writer, or CD burner, that you can use for downloading and saving files. The CD writer can write and verify CD-R and CD-RW discs at up to 52x speed (7,800 Kbps) and runs Nero software. You can send files. Small files, such as CV documents, can be sent as file attachments to an email. However we don't recommend this method for large files as it can block the recipient's mailbox and can cause inconvenience especially when using a slow dialup connection.

You can access digital camera memory cards on some of our computers. Memory card formats that we support read include Compact Flash, IBM micro drive, Secure Digital, Multi Media Card, Memory Stick and Smart Media Card. Photographs on a memory card can be viewed, printed, emailed and copied onto CD. You can print on the black and white laser printer from any of the computers simply by clicking on the print button. You can print all sorts of things including web pages, photos, Word documents and Adobe Acrobat documents. You can print from the Internet, from a 3.5 inch floppy or from a CD.

All major languages are supported on our computers, plus input method editors for Chinese, Japanese and Korean. The Internet Cafe welcomes disabled customers. They comply with the

new duties placed on us by part 3 of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 that came into force on the 1 October 2004. The service is available from both inside the Internet Cafe and the immediate surrounding area through the provision of wireless laptops for the disabled. This is a very good technology to have in the community, without some people would struggle to get things done. But some disadvantages of having this technology is that some individuals may use it to access the wrong sort of files, and be downloading things they shouldn't be, also you will not have as much privacy when your sitting next to other customers peering over at your screen. But overall it is a great technology to have; I mean most of the listed disadvantages can be tackled so that they cannot access these files and can have privacy.

### The Arcade

The arcade has many advantages and disadvantages. It is also another way of keeping kids off the street and possibly causing trouble, helps children to entertain themselves and helps them to socialise within the community. But there could be lots of disadvantages towards this like vandalism and making certain children either or both violent or addictive. Instead of exercising regularly they will be in the arcade, which will make children overweight, lazy, violent and unhealthy. It doesn't cost any money to get in; it just costs money to play all of the games. It can be accessed by anyone at any age, but any misbehaving, kicking the machine or vandalising or fights, the culprits will be thrown out and possibly banned. At this moment in time there is not a membership available, but this would be a very good idea if searching for an improvement. There is a shop inside the arcade where games and consoles can be purchased.

New games and entertainment is purchased for the public monthly so that they can keep the customers interested. There is a section for the adults who want to win lots of money. As in there are slot and fruit machines, a casino where the entire well known games can be played to win serious money. To get into this section of the arcade you have to at least 21 and have to be a member. The only way you can become a member is to be a friend of a member, so that on the membership form another member can put you forward, but this means that the member who has put the new member up for the membership is to blame for the other persons actions. So say that new member has violated the rules of the arcade they will be banned forever and the other member who nominated him for membership will be fined or banned depending on how serious the crime committed was.

### Cinema

Then also for entertainment there is a cinema which has 3 screens and can seat up to 100 people in each. This allows you to see the latest movies out of all types. Although it is rather

expensive and some people can be causing trouble and ruining the movie for all others in the cinema. You do not have to be a member for this cinema to book a movie, you have to be old enough obviously so you can watch it, by just going into it or booking the tickets by phoning in. Phoning in will guarantee that you will get the seats unless is already booked. But the problem with just turning up is that there may not be any seats available for the time of the movie that you wish to see. There is a problem with the cinema because people can just download off the Internet for free which is actually illegal. So in effect of this they cannot get as many customers coming into the cinema and so therefore cant get as much income because of this and in time the company will go out of business.

#### Speed camera

This meets our needs by stopping people speeding and causing accidents and harm to the public, it will also stop them because if the get caught by the speed camera they will get a fine and docked points off of their licence. But it may come as a shock to some of the drivers who are in a rush to get somewhere and hadn't noticed the speed camera and have got caught. The worst one maybe that the film inside the camera has run out and may have missed the real offenders. This could be better by being more open so that the drivers have a chance to see them and can stop or they can make the cars so they cannot go above the speed limit of 70mph or round-a-bout that speed. Which will stop accidents and deaths and traffic jams in a busy road from a crash.

#### CCTV

This allows you to watch your property and can catch criminals without confronting them and without the unnecessary violence. You can put these anywhere around your home to protect it, so that the criminals cannot burgle and will get the justice that they deserve. Although by the time the criminal has realised that you have a CCTV camera then they would have gone, this could act as a deterrent also. The CCTV and the camera feed would cost a lot and then to install it to meet your needs would be expensive, but if you have something that you do not want to be damaged or something that is very valuable then this piece of technology is well worth the money. The criminals can also break the cameras so you cannot track the movement of them.