

5 Watery Lane
Upper Welland
Malvern
Worcestershire
WR14 4JX

Tel: 01684 560360

13th April 2008

Sir Michael Rake
Chairman
British Telecommunications plc
81 Newgate Street
London EC1A 7AJ

Dear Sir Michael

Upper Welland: Provision of Broadband

1. Please find enclosed a petition from the inhabitants of the village of Upper Welland in Worcestershire
2. Our reasons for wanting Broadband access are described eloquently in BT's own press releases 1 -*"We are living in a broadband age and people, particularly children, are increasingly using the internet to keep in touch and share information like diaries, video and photographs, no matter where they are in the world. This expands their horizons immeasurably, allowing them to meet people and access resources across the globe."*
3. We have been told that the poor broadband access in Upper Welland is caused by our distance from the Great Malvern telephone exchange. Many local people, who are connected to the Great Malvern exchange, in fact live nearer to the Hanley exchange.
4. We have also been told that BT had plans to install a fibre optic link from the Great Malvern exchange to a "street cabinet " near here, on the Wells Road, Malvern Wells. It seems this could reduce line loss caused by the distance from the street cabinet to the exchange. It is our understanding that this "street cabinet " would then contain the technology to convert the fibre optic signals to those handled by the usual copper telephone lines, thus acting, in effect, as a local digital extension of the exchange.
5. Does BT still plan to use fibre optic technology to give us a local exchange?
6. We look forward to hearing your proposals to improve broadband access to this community.

Yours sincerely

Graham George
Upper Welland Community Group Chairman

cc: Michael Spicer MP, Ofcom, Otelo, BT Openworld Watch Dog