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Residents will tap-in to fastest broadband

By Leslie Jackson

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RESIDENTS on a parkland housing estate are set receive one of the fastest broadband connections in the country courtesy of a Leek company.

Internet Connections has been granted utility status by OFCOM to carry out civil works on the public highway at St Edward's Park, Cheddleton.

This will enable the company to roll out a new product where residents living on the estate will be able to receive a 1,000Mbps broadband speed.

Once work is completed a movie could be downloaded in just 36 seconds.

Internet Connections, an internet service provider based in Leek, has now begun the work to take the parkland broadband service to a whole new level.

Expanding on a privately funded project that brought superfast connectivity by the company to St Edward's Park in 2013, the planned upgrades will provide a broadband service 20 times faster than is currently available.

Andy Harding, managing director and founder of Internet Connections and a St Edward's Park resident, said:



Managing director Andy Harding helps out with the work.

"For the past 12 years we have prided ourselves on being at the cutting edge of technology, using innovative solutions to deliver the ultimate in high performance, high reliability services.

"For a company that is community focused, we're really excited that the investments we're making to our high speed fibre optic network here in Cheddleton will bring great benefits to the people of St Edward's Park, who will soon be able to receive the kind of speeds that could only previously be dreamed of."

Mr Harding said the company worked with Staffordshire Highways and National Grid to carry out some roadworks concurrently to minimise disruption to motorists and residents.

Work on the company's fibre optic network will continue over the coming months.

"Once this is complete, existing customers and residents of St Edward's Park will be offered a new range of high speed broadband packages.

Mr Harding, aged 32, who set up his company 14 years ago, said the whole idea of bringing

broadband to St Edward's Park started when he and friends gathered at The Red Lion in Cheddleton.

He said: "Talk would invariably turn to grumbling about the slow and unreliable broadband they had to live with at St Edward's Park

"The community was so far away from the Cheddleton exchange that the cost of rolling out the fibre were simply too high.

"Then we noticed that on its journey from Manchester to Leeds, our own fibre network runs along the A520 passing the junction with the East Drive entrance to St Edward's Park."

The company then decided to leaflet residents to see if they were interested in having the system brought to their homes.

Many people replied and Internet Connections completed the work in August 2013. The business has installed the latest technology in London, Manchester, Leeds and other cities.

The Cheddleton Park project was the first time it had supplied residential properties.

Should anyone wish to discuss the latest developments, please contact James Burns at james@inetc.co.uk