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Riverside villages join broadband revolution

Two small villages on the banks of the River Severn can now receive broadband thanks to the owners of Shipton Mill and connect.glos.

Longney and Epney were among a reducing number of rural locations in Gloucestershire unable to access broadband before the intervention of connect.glos – a scheme managed by Gloucestershire First to encourage greater use of broadband technology.

Briefed by the parish council, the search for a wireless connection by Cotswold Community Networks first took engineers to the Forest side of the river in the hunt for a good broadband connection with line of sight to Longney and Epney.

But the solution lay south of the river where, thanks to the co-operation of the owners of Shipton Mill and one of the tallest silos in the area at Frampton, a new radio link provided the answer to the villagers' needs.

Now up and running, local businesses have full access to the internet, which in many types of business, enables them to compete on equal terms with companies trading from larger urban areas.

Charlie Bray, project manager with connect.glos said: "The internet greatly aids business people living in rural areas, opening up new sales and marketing opportunities, while cutting down travel, carbon emissions and providing the option of working from home.

"We would like to thank the owners of Shipton Mill for supporting this initiative and bringing all the benefits of the internet to these two small villages."

Parish councillor Paul Dempster agreed. He said: "Our parish plan highlighted that broadband was necessary for our rural businesses to perform.

"This wireless system has provided a level of service we thought unavailable and we are very grateful to both Gloucestershire First and Cotswold Community Networks for helping us achieve our goal,"

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