

# **New River Estate Canonbury Ward**

## **Wireless Network Questions and Answers**

### **1. What is the wireless network?**

This project is an extension of the existing Technology Mile hotzone which runs from the Angel to the Odeon Cinema on Holloway Road. It offers wireless coverage within under-privileged housing estates to bring local and council services to the community together with free access to the internet.

### **2. What is the coverage?**

The hotspot covers Ashby House, Eric Fletcher Court, Jersey House, Guernsey House, Caldy Walk, Upper Caldy Walk, Upper Gulland Walk, Upper Bardsey Walk, Upper Handa Walk and Upper Ramsey Walk.

Wireless PCs have been installed in the Walter Sickert Community Centre and a Learning Bus offers wireless training to residents until March 08.

### **3. Why did you choose this estate as opposed to others in the borough?**

Islington Council were keen to extend the StreetNet wireless network into a less privileged housing estate to reach out to the areas of the community that may not have access to cutting edge technology and the benefits that technology can offer, the New River Estate fits this criteria

### **4. What technology is used?**

Using StreetNet, a wireless network, low-powered transmitters are installed on buildings to offer wireless coverage in the estate.

### **5. What is WiFi technology?**

WiFi is a local area network that uses high frequency radio signals to transmit and receive data.

### **6. Are there any plans to extend the network to other areas of Islington?**



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The council is currently assessing where the service can be extended to next. The focus again will be on estates which will benefit most from the deployment of this service. Careful selection criteria will be used during the decision making process.

**7. What services can be accessed via StreetNet?**

There is free access to the internet, council and local information and services, weather up-dates, freemail and travel information.

**8. Who can access this service?**

This service is offered free of charge to all residents, visitors and businesses.

**9. How many users currently log-on to the StreetNet network?**

The usage of the service has increased week-on-week with approximately 15,500 users per month logging on.

**10. Why does the council think this project is a good idea?**

Islington Council is committed to finding ways to enable socially and digitally disadvantaged residents to take full advantage of the benefits made available to users of emerging technologies, such as the internet.

**11. How does this project benefit the community?**

This will benefit the community by providing free access to the web, council and local services, weather up-dates, freemail and travel information.

**12. What are the key objectives of the project?**

- Social Inclusion – bridging the digital divide.
- Deliver the council's vision of "One Islington." The four priorities of this vision are: regeneration, sustainability, performance improvement and customer focus.
- Aid communication between the council, residents, businesses and visitors.
- Provide opportunities for joint working with local businesses to improve the borough.
- Meet the e-government agenda by offering as many online services as possible to increase access and reduce inequality.
- Provide a platform for the development of other digital services such IPTV and low cost VoIP telephony.

**13. Who is funding the project?**

This project is joint-funded between LBI and Cityspace, our technical commercial partners.



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**14. Will the wireless network affect electrical appliances in my home?**

The wireless network should not create any adverse affects to other electrical appliances in the home. The network is being installed to take into account other wireless devices operating in the same area and specific channel planning is used to minimise cross interference.

**15. How do I know the wireless network is safe?**

There have been no attributable risks attached to the deployment of Wi-Fi (WLAN) networks. The council's technical commercial partners have deployed the wireless network in line with the equipment manufacturers' recommendations and within permissible transmission powers recommended for operation in the UK. Such acceptable transmission levels have been set by OFCOM, the Government regulator responsible for radio transmission within the United Kingdom.

In December 2006, the Department for Education and Skills said it stood by the all-clear verdict given to Wi-Fi by the Health Protection Agency.

**16. Will it affect my sky or digital disc?**

The wireless network operates on different frequencies and technology to Sky or other digital TV signals. Any adverse reception on these products will not be as a result of the wireless network.

**17. Will this network conflict with my private home wireless network?**

The technology used to create the StreetNet wireless experience is identical to the low powered wireless networking equipment used in private homes and residences. During the installation a number of measurements will have been taken to identify other wireless networks in close proximity. In such instances, the StreetNet wireless Network will have been channel planned around these signals to ensure minimal disruption to other networks.

**18. Who can I contact for further information?**

For further information and/or access instructions, please contact send an email to [streetnet@islington.gov.uk](mailto:streetnet@islington.gov.uk)



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