

Aberdaron: cutting edge technology at the edge of the Llŷn

Aberdaron has been selected by Arloesi Gwynedd Wledig to pilot how to bring public access Wi-Fi to remote and rural communities.

Access to the internet is crucial in ensuring the modern tourist can make the most of their stay in an area and let their friends and family know about the great time they're having!

In big city centres visitors now enjoy free Wi-Fi, usually provided by one of the large telecom companies, but in rural areas this isn't the case, and to make things worse, these areas – like Aberdaron - often suffer from mobile poor or non-existent 3G/4G mobile coverage.

So can rural communities do things their own way and find creative and innovative ways to keep up? This is what Arloesi Gwynedd Wledig is finding out!

Arloesi Gwynedd Wledig has funded the installation of a public access Wi-Fi network across the village of Aberdaron to learn how every community in rural Gwynedd could run their own Wi-Fi network.

Taking advantage of the superfast broadband provided to the village by the Welsh Government's Superfast Wales Programme; Arloesi Gwynedd Wledig, working with local businesses and the National Trust - all members of Aberdaron & District Tourist Link - have installed transmitters

on their buildings bringing Wi-Fi free to everyone visiting the village and the adjacent beach.

Geraint Jones chairman of the Aberdaron & District Tourist Link explained “In this day and age people expect to be able to connect to the internet to share information on Facebook, make reservations or check when local attractions are open. Being able to do these things while remaining in Aberdaron can only be a good thing for business.”

Aberdaron was selected for the pilot due to its unique geography coupled with a high number of visitors. This will provide a stern test of the digital infrastructure and prove whether there is a demand for this type of provision.

Rachel Roberts from Arloesi Gwynedd Wledig explained “We will be monitoring the service over the next 12 months and asking for feedback from the users. This will be information we will provide to every other community in Gwynedd who wish to follow in Aberdaron’s footsteps”.

At the end of the 12 month pilot a toolkit will be created which will include information on how the service was set up along with all the lessons learnt. This will be publicly available via the Arloesi Gwynedd Wledig website.

Arloesi Gwynedd Wledig deliver the LEADER project in Gwynedd and is funded through the Welsh Government Rural Communities - Rural Development Programme 2014-2020, which is funded by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the Welsh Government.

For more information about the project visit the Arloesi Gwynedd Wledig website www.arloesigwyneddwledig.com or our Facebook page.

For more info about the Aberdaron & District Tourist Link group please visit their website www.aberdaronlink.co.uk .

For more information on Superfast Wales visit www.superfast-cymru.com.

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1. The system installed is a cloud based “Hot-spot” network which includes high speed uncontended fibre service supplied from PC-Q ISP, router, bridges and access points. All equipment was supplied by PC-Q of Llanidloes. The equipment was installed by HB Digital from Penygroes.
2. Financial support has also been provided for the Arloesi Gwynedd Wledig programme from the EU, Welsh Government, Nuclear Decommissioning Authority and Gwynedd Council.
3. Arloesi Gwynedd Wledig is managed by the Gwynedd Local Action Group which is comprised of representatives from the public, private and voluntary sectors. The chairman is Menna Jones, Chief Executive of Antur Waunfawr.
4. Did you know, over 70% of homes and business in Gwynedd can now choose to access Superfast Broadband now choose of 30Mbps or more and over 90% will be able to do so by the end of summer 2017.
www.superfast-cymru.com/where-and-when

Arloesi Gwynedd Wledig is delivered from their office in Porthmadog.

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