**“Superfast broadband will be crucial for planning our wedding abroad”**

**says Sheri Hall**

A newly-engaged young couple from Wenvoe are getting behind a new campaign to promote the benefits of superfast broadband and encourage its further adoption across the county.

Sheri Hall and her fiancé are supporting the Welsh Government campaign after experiencing first-hand how a superfast internet service can make a massive difference to every-day life while also helping to organise their wedding abroad.

As a busy working couple, Sheri and her fiancé, who only moved to Wenvoe from Cardiff in September, rely on the internet for everything from streaming movies and boxsets to gaming and planning their wedding abroad.

Sheri said, “Having lived in the centre of Cardiff for the past few years we’ve been used to having a really good superfast connection so when we moved to Wenvoe back in September where phone signal and 3G service is poor, we knew we’d need to negotiate a good broadband package with our provider.

“My fiancé is a very enthusiastic gamer and spends all his spare time playing online games against people in all corners of the world. It would be literally impossible for him to do this with conventional broadband so superfast was a necessity for him. It also means that I can be on the internet at the same time as him, whether it be surfing or streaming a programme, it makes no difference to the speed or efficiency of either of our activities.

“Aside from the superfast broadband connection being able to satisfy my fiancé’s’ appetite for gaming, it is also crucial for me to be able to keep in touch with my parents in Swansea. I really need a dependable and efficient WiFi connection in order to make ‘What’s App’ calls because the phone reception is so poor. Without a superfast broadband connection I think I’d really struggle to speak to them as regularly as I’d like and since our engagement I’ve been talking to my mum on a daily basis to discuss engagement party and wedding plans.”

“Our superfast broadband connection has also proved to be amazing for streaming movies and box sets as well as catching up on programmes we might’ve missed. We can literally watch them at the touch of a button, even if they’re still downloading and there’s no buffering or stalling, it’s all instantaneous. It just helps takes the stress out and frustration out of everyday life.

“I can’t praise the service enough, it just makes so many mundane tasks like online banking or grocery shopping so much easier while adding value and enjoyment to leisure time. It also cheaper than you might think so generally doesn’t break the bank either. For us it was a no brainer and I’d really recommend it to everyone.”

In addition to roll out of the technology by the private sector, Superfast Cymru has provided an extra 15,409 premises in the area with access to superfast broadband.

With more than 82% of the Superfast Cymru roll-out programme complete in the Vale of Glamorgan, the Welsh Government superfast campaign is aiming to promote superfast broadband to residents to demonstrate its benefits and encourage its further use across the county.

While most of the county can now access faster broadband should they wish to do so, a small percentage of premises are not yet able to access it. Assistance is also available for them on the Welsh Government website or by contacting the Welsh Government broadband team\*

Leader of the House and Chief Whip, Julie James, said: “While the majority of homes in the Vale of Glamorgan can now access superfast broadband should they wish, many people are simply not fully aware of its benefits or how it can be accessed.

“As Sheri’s story shows, faster broadband speeds are enabling people to make the most of the leisure time they have as well as stay in touch and communicate with people across the world with greater speed and efficiency than ever before. This includes activities such as downloading large learning resources for children, managing bank accounts, shopping for groceries, paying household bills or using video services such as Skype.

“We want as many people as possible to realise these benefits, and this campaign is aiming to showcase how the technology is impacting thousands of lives in communities across Wales.”

Households and businesses in the Vale of Glamorgan wanting to take advantage of the benefits of fast fibre broadband should contact an internet service provider (ISP) of their choice to place an order.

\*To find out what broadband is available, people are advised to visit [www.gov.wales/broadband](http://www.gov.wales/broadband). This also includes information for those not yet able to receive superfast broadband as support may be available through the Welsh Government's Access Broadband Cymru scheme, which provides grant funding to access superfast broadband through other means.

**DIWEDD**