

Public Sector Webcasting and Multimedia

Issued: January 2008

Irish State Radio discusses webcasting by Local Authorities

"The late show" an evening radio debate on RTE 1 the Irish state radio station, ran a programme on the potential of webcasting by Local Authorities. The panel included Councillors from Fingal County Council; Limerick City and Keith Young from Public-i. To listen to this discussion please drag the bar in the Media Player to 35 mins 15 sec to get to the debate.

http://www.rte.ie/radio1/player_av.html?0,null,200,http://dynamic.rte.ie/quickaxs/209-rte-latedebate-Monday.smil

First webcast for South Holland

South Holland District Council provided their first live webcast for a Special Cabinet meeting which took place on the 21st November. South Holland are the 45th Council to commence regular webcasting in the UK and plan to broadcast their Full Cabinet, Development Control and certain specific meetings. The launch meeting which discussed the possible approval of 3 sites for planning permission for gypsies and travellers, a high local interest topic, attracted over 500 live viewers and a further 440 viewing the archive to date..

<http://www.sholland.gov.uk/>

<http://www.sholland.public-i.tv/site/player/index.php?a=11536>

Petition power kicks off new year of community action

Communities Secretary Hazel Blears launched radical proposals to make people's voices heard on the key issues they care most about, such as tackling anti-social behaviour, helping older people or improving local parks. Hazel Blears said:

"We have a rich history of writing and signing petitions: 60 per cent of us do so each year, but do we have a rich enough history of answering and responding to them? These new powers would mean the concerns of local people can no longer be filed away and ignored, and ensure we have a more responsive culture." A number of Councils have identified webcasting and ePetitioning as key facilities that achieve these goals.

For more information visit:

<http://www.gnn.gov.uk/Content/Detail.asp?ReleaseID=341205&NewsAreaID=2>

Increasing Public Engagement in Sussex

East Sussex County Council has been providing consultations and 'Have your Say' events to increase public engagement. A number of these events have been webcast to increase their accessibility.

<http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/yourcouncil/about/committees/haveyoursay/default.htm>

<http://www.eastsussex.ukcouncil.net/>

The Queen's Speech

Last year it was podcast, this year it was webcast. The Queen may be an octogenarian but she joined in the Web 2.0 fun just in time for Christmas.

The 81-year-old monarch, who annually delivers the televised Christmas day message, saw her speech on YouTube visited by over three quarters of a million people from all over the world.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u0nmkYGC1jE>

Rail Freight Enquiry due to public demand

In order to allow access to as many members of the community as possible St Albans City and District Council webcast the opening and closing days of the Public Enquiry into the proposed decision to build a Rail Freight Depot on green belt land in Hertfordshire. With the enquiry being held during office hours the webcast enabled members of the community to watch proceedings either from their homes in the evening or live from their place of work.

<http://www.stalbans.ukcouncil.net/site/player/index.php?a=10778>

<http://www.stalbans.gov.uk>

A nice day for a webcast wedding

A wedding in Dundee has made history by becoming the first civil ceremony to be broadcast from the Registrar's Office to China. Dundee is the first council in Scotland to start webcasting civil ceremonies.

It is also believed the project is the first of its kind in the UK, as no other local authority is known to offer widespread webcasting of the services.

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/tayside_and_central/7163509.stm

Successful launch in Denmark

Odder Kommune in Denmark had a very successful webcasting launch on Monday Nov 12. They are the first Danish Council to launch the eParticipate system and achieved 145 visits during the live webcast.

www.eParticipate.eu

<http://www.odder.public-i.tv/site/player/index.php?a=10913>

Czech Republic also announce a successful launch

The Czech Republic local regional council, Vysocinia, also successfully launched the eParticipate system. The system has now been translated into 6 European languages. Software 602 a local Company will be deploying the system throughout the Czech Republic.

<http://www.vysocina.public-i.tv/site/player/index.php?a=12191>

<http://extranet.kr-vysocina.cz/jazykoveverze/uk/>

Broadband prices drop while speed of connection increases

Broadband prices have dropped in the past year, with customers now paying an average of £21.10 a month, compared to £25.91 a month in 2006.

Performance and reliability were found to be the most important factors to broadband customers, chosen by 24% of survey respondents. Average broadband speed has dramatically jumped to almost 40% to 4.9Mbps, up from 3.5Mbps in 2006.

http://www.ofcom.org.uk/media/news/2007/12/nr_20071213

International historical events made available over the internet

A series of international talks have been webcast recently by the Isles of Scilly Council. As part of the 300th Anniversary of the loss of HMS Association, Sir Arnold Wolfendale, the 14th Astronomer Royal (rtd) gave a talk in the Council Chamber at 6.15pm on Saturday 20th October. Sir Arnold was joined by Dr. John C. Taylor, the UK's leading expert on horology. Also, the award winning author of "Longitude" - Dava Sobel - flew in from Long Island in America to give a talk on the loss of the Association and the subsequent search for a solution to the problem of accurately estimating longitude.

<http://www.scilly.gov.uk/events/>

Issued by Public-i: for further information, please contact Keith Young info@public-i.info
If you experience any difficulties in viewing the webcasts mentioned in this email then please contact info@public-i.info.