

The Parish Council has learned that the Hanslope telephone exchange has recently been upgraded which allows faster broadband speeds. Before then the maximum speed which could be offered by Internet Service Providers (ISPs) was up to 8 Mega Bits per Second (8Mbps), the actual attainable being dependent on distance to the exchange and the line condition. This is known as ADSL. ADSL2 gives speeds up to a maximum of about 14 Mbps whilst ADSL2+ gives between about 10 and 19.5 Mbps, again depending on the distance from the exchange. ADSL2+ is available in Hanslope from those ISPs who choose to provide it. Anybody who wishes to subscribe to ADSL2+ needs to check that their ADSL modem is compatible with it. However, this is likely to be the case as the standard was defined at least 10 years ago. A subscriber, living by The Green, reports obtaining 17 Mbps download and 1.0 Mbps upload which makes a significant difference to the quality of video calls." Finally, a caution if speaking to BT about upgrading. Some of their off-shore call centre staff are not as knowledgeable as they might be; this to the extent that two people, when spoken to, did not apparently know the difference between ADSL2+ and BT Infinity. which offers up to 38 Mbps. This is NOT available in the village and, according to BT, is unlikely to be so in the foreseeable future as it is not economical for a small subscriber base. In brief, it involves providing fast fibre-optic connections from the exchange to several roadside cabinets near to subscribers. The remaining part of the route is then the existing copper cable. This arrangement is usually known as Fibre To The Cabinet (FTTC).