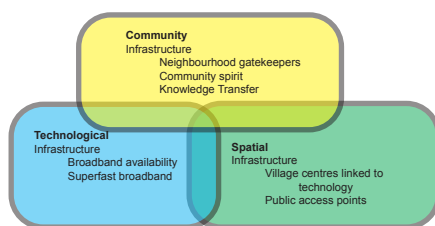# DIGITAL NEIGHBOURHOODS

*"In Netville, Internet use was associated with
larger neighborhood networks, neighbor recognition,
greater frequency of communication (on and offline), and
participation in the public and private realms.
The Internet intensified the volume and range of
neighborly relations, rather than reducing neighboring
or transforming neighboring into an online-only experience"*
(Hampton and Welmann 2003)

Does online connectivity create new patterns of use of space and place within a community and does this develop new models of neighbourhood ?

LINKING SOCIAL, SPATIAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL INFRASTRUCTURES

Community
Infrastructure
Neighbourhood gatekeepers
Community spirit
Knowledge Transfer

Technological
Infrastructure
Broadband availaibility
Superfast broadband

Spatial
Infrastructure
Village centres linked to technology
Public access points

Ghosts, Games Grub event "George on the Flight Simulator", St Breward Memorial Hall

CONTEXT

The motivation for the project is to understand the impact on communities of the introduction of a large-scale technological infrastructure to a deprived region. The study works with neighbourhoods that are classified as deprived according to LSOA data (that is they are charaterised by geographical isolation, lack of social mobility and lack of access to services). This EU funded project is part of BT/Superfast Cornwall Labs: investigating current thinking, research, technological developments of what is possible through superfast broadband.

OUTCOMES

The project aims to deliver both a theoretical framework and in-depth empirical results on how interaction in social networks enabled by technological infrastructures such as high speed broadband affects social cohesion and overcomes digital divides. It will also result in a model for creating high quality public spaces that engage people through their digital social networks that will impact on planning and policy for regional ICT access and neighbourhood renewal.

'LOCAL' TECHNOLOGIES
Neighbourhoods need to determine the function and role of technologies in ways that are appropriate to their community. The application of technologies must take account of the specificities of commuity and place in order to maximise the impact for the neighbourhood. This includes upskilling of commuity stakeholders.

DIGITAL HUBS
Neighbourhoods need public places that enable a link between the comminity and digital skills and equipment We propose a model of a digtial hub which combines the following three key community links:
-Place
-People
-Digital Connectivity

CONNECTING COMMUNITIES
Deprived communtiies often experience economic and social isolation, but as neighbourhoods they can be thriving social spaces. By linking up local communities through video connections there is an opportunity to extend the community beyond its geographical location and create networks of connectivity across communities.