

HELEN GRANT MP



House of Commons
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Mr Philip F J Betts
Pillar Box Cottage
Sinkhurst Green
Frittenden
Kent TN17 2ED

19th January 2015

Dear Mr Betts

Re: Mobile Phone Coverage in the Weald

Since I wrote to you in November, I'm delighted to report we have made significant progress on our campaign to improve mobile phone coverage across our rural Wealden communities.

To tackle the issues highlighted by our campaign, the Government has announced a **landmark legally binding deal** with the four major mobile phone networks (Vodafone, O2, EE & Three) to resolve poor signal issues across Kent and the UK.

Under the agreement there will be a **guaranteed £5bn investment programme to improve mobile infrastructure by 2017**, halving the areas currently blighted by patchy coverage as a result of partial 'not-spots', and reducing complete not-spots by almost two-thirds. The deal will be enforceable by Ofcom, and as a result of the agreement, many areas across Kent will receive better data coverage, some for the first time.

I am also pleased to inform you that we now have a venue for our public meeting with the Minister responsible for our Mobile Networks and Broadband, Ed Vaizey. It will be at the High Weald Academy in Cranbrook at 7pm on February 12th 2015. I have invited the four major mobile networks along too, with Vodafone already pledging their attendance.

We have a clear indication of the shape and location of the current signal not-spots thanks to the problem postcodes you have provided (above right), and the meeting will provide the opportunity to explore how this landmark deal will improve coverage in these communities across the Weald.

Spaces are limited, so if you would like to attend, please contact me by emailing helen.grant.mp@parliament.uk, telephoning 0207 219 7107 or writing to me at my constituency office at Maidstone East Station Forecourt, Station Road, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1QN to reserve a space (if you haven't already done so).

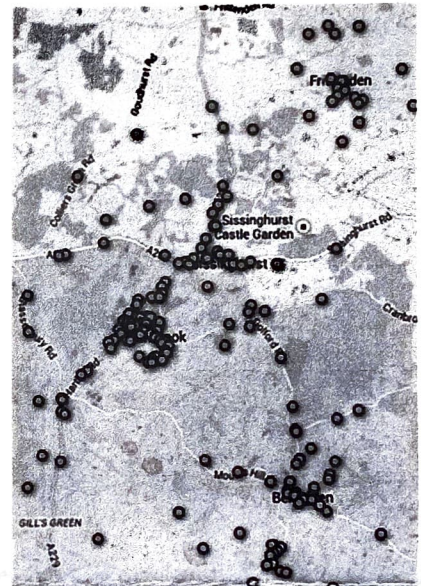
Thank you again for taking the time to engage with me on this issue. I hope to see you at the meeting.

With very best wishes

Member of Parliament for Maidstone & the Weald

Constituency Office: Maidstone East Station Forecourt, Station Road, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1QN

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Mobile phone blackspots in the Wealden areas of the Maidstone & The Weald Parliamentary Constituency