

**Lionel Barnard**

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Member for Henfield  
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24 April 2014

Dear Colleague,

Since Louise Goldsmith last wrote to you in February I would like to update you with further progress on enabling residents and businesses to connect to better, faster broadband across the county.

We aim for the majority of West Sussex to be able to access superfast fibre-based broadband speeds of 24Mbps in line with national targets and our available funding. We are working hard to beat the government's target date of Spring 2017 and, by building on the continuing commercial deployment of broadband, ensure that more than 90% of our county can access fibre-based broadband services by Spring 2016.

We are progressing well with engineering surveys happening ahead of schedule and broadband services going live in communities.

We expect the first five thousand premises to be able to be connected to better, faster broadband by the end of June 2014.

In phase one of our ambitious roll out of fibre-based broadband new connection packages will be available from internet service providers to customers connected by cabinets to exchanges at Billingshurst, Bosham, Fittleworth, Petworth and Sidlesham imminently, with more services going live for customers connected by cabinets to exchanges in Wisborough Green, West Chiltington, Pulborough, Storrington, Ashington, Bury, Graffham and Kirdford in the coming weeks.

More than forty new cabinets are currently being built, connected to power supplies and BT's fibre optic network as part of the first phase of the roll out of better, faster broadband. It can take some weeks from a cabinet being built to it going live so that providers can offer connection packages. When a cabinet is live customers contract to buy broadband services from an internet service provider, in the usual way.

The benefits will be great. Improved broadband speeds can transform how we work, live and communicate. This exciting technology can improve our quality of life and help to grow our economy by enabling new businesses to start up and existing ones to prosper.

Our website includes an interactive map to keep track of what is happening where and the map is updated to show where work is being carried out and when broadband services will become available. The website also has

information about the benefits of better, faster broadband and helps to put users in touch with broadband suppliers.

Please do visit [www.westsussex-betterconnected.org.uk](http://www.westsussex-betterconnected.org.uk) for more information.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lionel Barnard". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'L'.

Lionel Barnard  
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Member for Henfield