

# Town's bid for 3G mobile phone coverage moves one step closer

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A bid to get Vodafone 3G for Tenterden has moved forward.

Town councillor Sue Ferguson has been spearheading a campaign to get the town included in a rural open sure signal scheme.

**'It would be such a boost to tourism and businesses in the town if we get 3G'**

Vodafone has 12 areas already and is looking for another 100 around the country.

Cllr Ferguson, who submitted Tenterden's application this week, said: "We meet the criteria so I hope we will be successful.

"It would be such a boost to tourism and businesses in the town if we get 3G."

Ashford MP Damian Green is supporting the application.

Bids have to be in by Tuesday with successful communities hearing later in the autumn. Vodafone hopes to have equip-



Town councillor Sue Ferguson

ment installed by Christmas.

Open sure signal is a small 3G mobile base station which works with a local broadband connection to create a 3G signal.

Each unit provides up to 500 metres of 3G coverage and 10 properties are needed in each area to host the boxes.

They are installed by mobile phone company Vodafone and the only cost to the host build-



The Vodafone rural open sure signal box might soon be seen on properties across Tenterden

ing is an electricity bill of around £30 a year.

In the Tenterden and St Michael's area, properties which are interested include Stanley George, London Beach Hotel, Trinity Baptist Church, Zion Baptist Church, the town hall, Badsha Indian restaurant, Bell House/Nelson McLean, CB Motors, Kench Hill, Tenterden House Interiors at Leigh Green

Industrial Estate, Homewood School, Tesco and the flat above Norman Holmes jewellery shop.

Cllr Ferguson added: "Thank you to all the groups and businesses who are helping with this exciting community-led scheme, which will bring Vodafone 3G to St Michael's and Tenterden, if we are chosen."

■ For details go to [www.vodafone.co.uk/our-network-and-coverage/what-affects-your-coverage/rural-open-sure-signal](http://www.vodafone.co.uk/our-network-and-coverage/what-affects-your-coverage/rural-open-sure-signal)



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