



Introduction to RSN Services

**Nadine Trout, Assistant Chief Executive
Rural Services Network**

18 June 2024














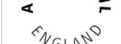












About Us







- **Financially independent membership organisation with over 500 organisations in membership**
- **National champion for rural services**
- **Raise the profile of rural areas and Campaign Government on your behalf**
- **Also provide you and your organisation with breaking news, spotlight publications, research, events, promotion and networking opportunities**


























Broad Membership

Local authorities
Market towns Health Providers
Housing Associations Fire Authorities
Utility Companies Transport Providers
Advice and Special Interest Groups








Over 500 RSN member organisations and
growing!



 A Different Approach	 Ability Community Transport	 Abingdon Risk Consulting	 ACRE (Action with Communities in Rural England)	 ACS (the Association of Convenience Stores)
 Action Hampshire	 Age UK	 Agricultural Chaplains Association	 Applause	 APSE (Assn Public Service Excellence)
 Arqiva	 Arthur Rank Centre	 Arts Council England	 AvantiGas	 BASC (British Assn for Shooting & Conservation)
 Bipolar UK	 Bridge Interiors - General and External Construction	 BT	 CafS (Cumbria Action for Sustainability)	 Calor Ltd
 Cambridgeshire ACRE	 Change Mental Health	 Community Council for Somerset	 Cirencester Town Council	 Citizens Advice




 Citizens Advice Dorset	 Citizens Advice Hull & East Riding	 Citizens Advice North Hertfordshire	 Citizens Advice North Yorkshire	 Citizens Advice Torridge North Mid & West Devon
 Community Catalysts	 Community Transport Association (CTA)	 Connecting Communities in Berkshire	 Cornwall Rural Community Charity	 Countryside Alliance
 Countryside Jobs Service	 CPRE (The Countryside Charity)	 Dartmoor National Park	 Devon Churches Rural Forum	 Devon Communities Together
 Digital Mobile Spectrum Limited	 Dispensing Doctors' Association	 Farming Community Network	 Federation of Women's Institute	 Forum of Private Business
 Gemserv	 Godolphin Cross Community Association	 iED (Institute of Economic Development)	 Land and Leisure	 Landex (x 52 colleges)



 Lincolnshire Co-op	 Lincolnshire Rural Support Network	 Linkage Community Trust	 Liquid Gas UK	 Midlands Connect
 Mobile UK	 National Association of Local Councils (NALC)	 National Rural Touring Forum (NRTF)	 NFU (National Farmers Union)	 National Innovation Centre for Rural Enterprise (NICRE)
 Northamptonshire ACRE	 Note Machine UK Ltd	 Nuclear Waste Services	 Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils	 OFTEC
 ONH Planning for Good	 Outside the Box	 Peak District National Park	 Plunkett UK	 Pub is the Hub
 Pym's Consultancy Ltd	 RABI	 Reed in Partnership	 Rural Media	 Rural West Sussex Partnership



 Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue	 Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service	 Essex Fire & Rescue	 Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue	 Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue
 Shropshire and Wrekin Fire & Rescue	 Suffolk Fire and Rescue			

 Airedale NHS Foundation Trust	 East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust	 NHS England South West	 Isle of Wight NHS Trust	 Lincolnshire CCGs
 Lincolnshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust	 National Centre for Remote and Rural Medicine	 Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust	 Plymouth University (Medicine & Dentistry Faculty)	 Royal College of General Practitioners, Rural Forum
 Somerset NHS Foundation Trust	 The Patients Association	 United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust		

 Aster Group	 Broadacres Housing Association	 Connexus	 Cornwall Rural Housing Association Limited	 Eden Housing Association
 English Rural Association	 Hastoe Housing Association Ltd	 Lincs Rural Housing Association	 Midlands Rural Housing	 National Housing Federation

 100Green	 Anglian Water	 Cadent Gas	 Northern Powergrid (North East)	 Scottish Power
 South East Water	 SP Energy Networks	 United Utilities	 Wales and West Utilities Ltd	 Western Power Distribution
 Wessex Water				

Member Benefits

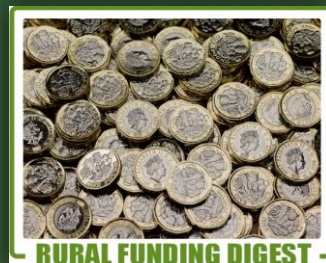
- Publication sent straight to your inbox
- Opportunity to network and share best practice
- Seminar and events programme
- **National Rural Conference**
- Rural research and analysis
- Campaigning

Publications

- Weekly news bulletin and political round up
- Monthly funding digest
- Monthly commentary on rural headlines
- Quarterly housing spotlight
- Quarterly economy spotlight

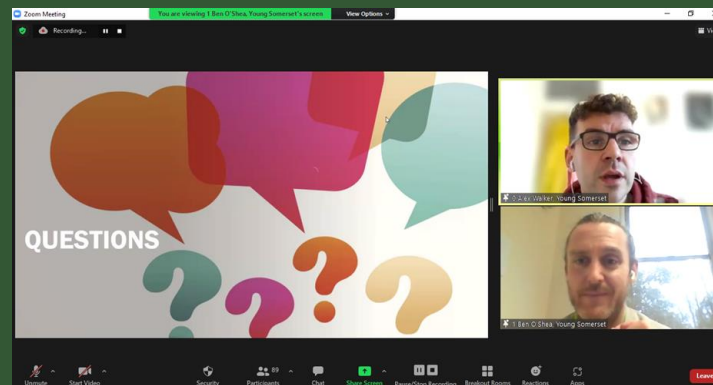


All delivered straight to your inbox



Seminar Programme

- 8 seminars tied key rural themes
- Expert speakers from industry & academia
- Q&A and networking opportunities
- **547** delegates last year
- Inclusive and carbon friendly
- Held on Zoom



 **RURAL SERVICES NETWORK** **2024**

SEMINAR PROGRAMME

Rural Net Zero 31st January 2024 11:00-13:00 BOOK NOW 	Rural Connectivity 28th February 2024 11:00-13:00 BOOK NOW 
Rural Fair Funding 27th March 2024 11:00-13:00 BOOK NOW 	Rural Economy 24th April 2024 11:00-13:00 BOOK NOW 
Rural Transport 22nd May 2024 11:00-13:00 BOOK NOW 	Rural Affordable Housing 26th June 2024 11:00-13:00 BOOK NOW 
Rural Planning 23rd October 2024 11:00-13:00 BOOK NOW 	Rural Health and Care 27th November 2024 11:00-13:00 BOOK NOW 

 ONLINE SEMINARS

National Rural Conference

Circa 500 delegates attended sessions online throughout the week



Save the date!
2024
CONFERENCE
online
16-19
September

Here is snapshot of images from the National Rural Conference 2022 event!

POLICY LANDSCAPE FOR RURAL DECARBONISATION

CCC's verdict on the Heat and Buildings Strategy is that it "has laid out important high-level decisions on the UK's approach to reducing emissions from heating buildings" but "plans are not yet comprehensive or complete"

5 priorities for the government to address now:

- Home energy efficiency
- Skills, information, finance and governance
- Devolved and local plan coordination
- Cost of electricity vs natural gas

Independent Assessment: The UK's Heat and Buildings Strategy March 2022

Housing challenges

- Remoteness
 - Services and Support
 - Transport and Infrastructure
- Diminishing number of affordable rural homes of all tenures
 - Right to Buy and Affordable lease disposals
 - Market and purchase price increases - good planning
- Newbuild development constraints
 - Planning constraints and local opposition
 - Provision and robust leader position
- Mismatch of homes to need
 - Insufficient housing for older people
 - Lack of one and two bed homes for smaller households and keyworkers

Government Policy Reviews

Our Rural Lens Series provide a useful overview on government policy



To view the full Rural Lens series covering over 20 topics visit:
<https://www.rsnonline.org.uk/tag/rural-lens/page/1/>

Commission Independent Research



Click each image to read the full report

Rural Cost of Living Survey generated over **7,000** responses



Support Back Bench Debate

The RSN provide briefing papers for both the House of Lords and Commons to inform rural debate.



“Although I am only 10 days into the job, I am very happy to talk to more colleagues about local government finance in general. I am keen to understand, to learn and to take the expertise that the all-party group and others have demonstrated over so many years to assist me in my role in the months ahead”

Lee Rowley DLUHC

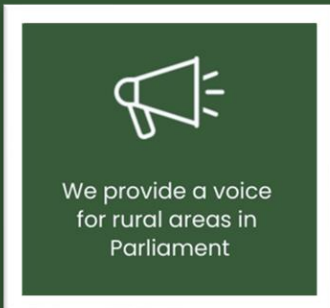
Watch the footage from Parliament TV at:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vuRToZxp-Qg>

Respond to Government Consultations

We make our members voices heard, examples:

- Phasing out fossil fuel heating in homes, businesses and public buildings off gas grid
- Landscapes Review (National Parks and AONBs): implementing the review
- Fire Reform White Paper – Reforming our Fire and Rescue Service
- A plan for digital health and social care
- Rural Powerhouse APPG – Rural Cost of Living
- Voluntary Guidance for Community Benefits for electricity transmission network infrastructure
- OFGEM Resilience Guidance
- Very Hard to Reach Premises Consultation
- Universal Service Obligation Consultation

As well providing the secretariat for the
All Party Parliamentary Group for Rural Services



Secured £15million additional funding

Influenced the final Local Government Settlement
2023/24

- Swiftly responded to the provisional Local Government Announcement made in December 2023.
- Galvanised rural MPs with key messaging.
- Resulting in a £15million increase to the Rural Services Delivery Grant

Still more work to do and we won't be resting until rural local authorities get their fair share of government funding.



Find out more at:
<https://www.rsnonline.org.uk/page/fairer-funding-campaign>

Influenced Further Afield

With government departments, House of Lords and National service providers

- DEFRA Rural Impact Forum
- Launched *Winning the Rural Vote* in Parliament
- Participated in BT Digital Voice Advisory Group on telephone switchover
- Broadcast 2040 campaign, the future of analogue TV
- DEFRA Rural England Prosperity Fund meeting
- Good Design Guide Project
- Localis collection of essays - published on Rural Planning
- Part of Rural Homelessness Coalition
- Part of National Alliance for Cultural Services



And finally, we keep Rural Issues in the news!

Around 20,000 subscribers

For example in recent months, RSN has been included in:

LocalGov Articles – Implications on Rural Planning

Tech Republic article on Digital Connectivity

Express Newspaper – Winning the Rural Vote

Guardian newspaper – Rural Bank Closures

Social Footprint Podcast – Digital Connectivity

<https://rsnonline.org.uk/page/media-coverage>



Rural communities face 'triple blow' in cost-of-living crisis

Energy crisis horror as poorest Britons to fork out half of disposable income on bills

Rural Services Network study shows rural areas are being hit harder during cost-of-living crisis



Thank you

For any queries about Rural Services Network
membership please contact:

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