



RSN Round Up 2022-23

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

17 April 2023



Welcomed 23 new member organisations in the past 12 months

 ACS (the Association of Convenience Stores)	 airband	 O'Neill Homer	 Countryside Jobs Service	 Liquid Gas UK	 Gemserv	 Platform Housing Group	 RABI	 Citizens Advice North Hertfordshire
 Digital Mobile Spectrum Limited	 The Patients Association	 OFTEC	 AvantiGas	 Arqiva	 Citizens Advice Hull & East Riding	 Lincolnshire Rural Support Network	 Citizens Advice North Yorkshire	 Warwickshire Rural Community Council (WRCC)

Sustained membership Over 500 RSN member organisations and growing

Delivered Seminars

- 9 seminars tied to Revitalising Rural themes
- Expert speakers from industry and academia
- Q&A and networking opportunities
- **634** delegates
- Inclusive and carbon friendly
- Held on Zoom

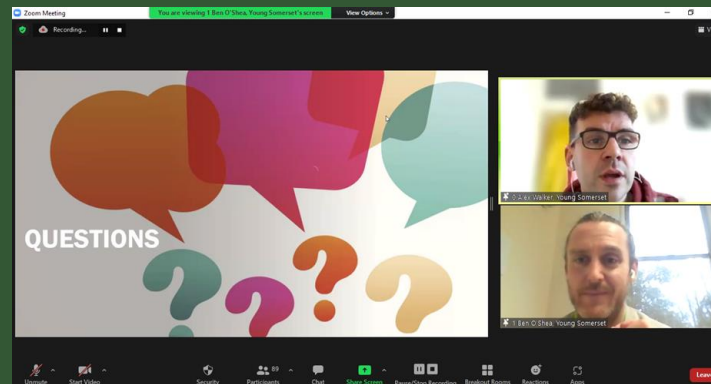


RURAL SERVICES NETWORK

2022 ONLINE SEMINAR PROGRAMME

1. Older people Wednesday 26/01/2022 11 am - 1 pm BOOK HERE	2. Young People in Rural Areas Wednesday 02/03/2022 11 am - 1 pm BOOK HERE
3. Rural Planning Wednesday 30/03/2022 11 am - 1 pm BOOK HERE	4. Rural Decarbonisation Wednesday 27/04/2022 11 am - 1 pm BOOK HERE
5. Rural Digital Connectivity Wednesday 25/05/2022 11 am - 1 pm BOOK HERE	6. Rural Affordable Housing Wednesday 29/06/2022 11 am - 1 pm BOOK HERE
7. Rural Health and Social Care Wednesday 27/07/2022 11 am - 1 pm BOOK HERE	8. Rural Town Centres, High Streets & Village Hubs Wednesday 02/11/2022 11 am - 1 pm BOOK HERE
9. Rural Economies Wednesday 30/11/2022 11 am - 1 pm BOOK HERE	

The RSN seminar programme is free to members of the RSN as part of their membership. For full details [click here](#)



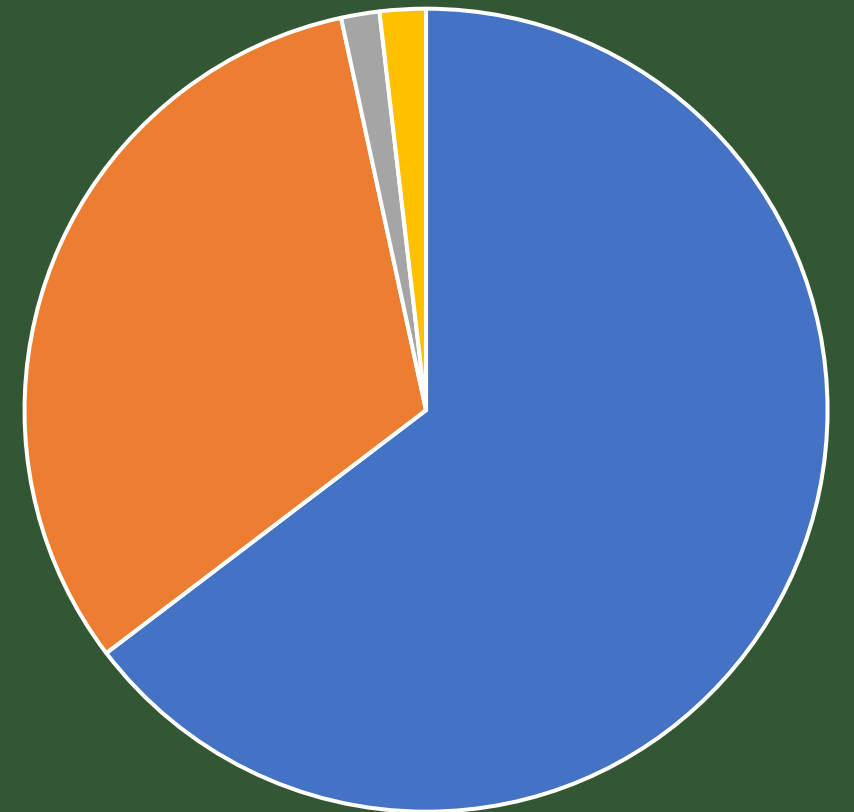
Held our biggest Conference yet!



648 delegates
28 speakers

If you'd like to sponsor next year's conference please get in touch.

Breakdown of attendance 2022



Local Authorities

Rural Services Partnership

Government

Rural Market Town Group

Reviewed Government Policy

We've added the following to our Rural Lens Series [click images to view](#).



To view the full Rural Lens series covering over 20 topics visit:

<https://www.rsnonline.org.uk/tag/rural-lens/page/1/>

Commissioned Independent Research



Click each image to read the full report



Rural Cost of Living Survey generated over **7,000** responses, findings to be published soon.



Supported Levelling Up Rural Britain Backbench debate

The debate was based on recent RSN commissioned research which shows:
Were England's rural communities a distinct region, their need for Levelling Up
(based on the Governments figures) **would be greater than that of any other part
of the country,**

<https://rsnonline.org.uk/images/publications/rural-as-a-region-the-hidden-challenge-for-levelling-up.pdf>



“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>

Responded to Government Consultations

Made your voice heard by responding to:

- 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
- OFCOM call for input into UK preparations for World Radiocommunication Conference
- A plan for digital health and social care
- Rural Powerhouse APPG – Rural Cost of Living

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



We provide a voice
for rural areas in
Parliament



UK
Parliament

What's on

Secured £10million 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 £10million 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
- Gave evidence to the House of Lords Select Committee on Social Care
- Presented in the House of Lords to the Rural Coalition on the importance of rural Levelling Up
- Launched State of Rural Services report to MPs and Lords
- Rural Affordable Housing Roundtable
- Off Gas Grid Heating in Rural Areas meeting with BEIS Minister
- Participated in BT Digital Voice Advisory Group on telephone switchover
- Broadcast 2040 campaign, the future of analogue TV



Liquid Gas UK

And finally, we've kept the Rural Services Network in the news!

Over 20,000 subscribers

For example, on the rural cost-of-living crisis

Extensive BBC Coverage:

National news and 19 regional news programmes
BBC Farming Today
BBC Radio 4, Radio 2 and regional radio

National Press:

Daily Express
Farming UK
Government Business

Plus 17 entries in regional and trade press

<https://rsnonline.org.uk/page/rural-in-the-news>



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

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

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 strategy or membership please contact:

Nadine Trout, Assistant Chief Executive

nadine.trout@sparse.gov.uk