



RSN Achievements 2024

**Kerry Booth, Chief Executive
Rural Services Network**

2nd December 2024

The background of the image features several stacks of gold coins. The stacks are arranged in a row, with the tallest stack on the left and the shortest on the right. The coins are highly reflective, showing bright highlights and deep shadows. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light color.

The Rural Services Network is fighting for a fair deal for rural communities, in all public sector funding



**We want a fairer
distribution of
national resources
to rural areas and
for more nuanced
national policies
that reflect rural
circumstances.**



We are a membership body with over 500 organisations all with an interest in delivering services in rural areas

We are the national champion for rural services



We provide a network
for rural areas to come
together and share
best practice



We represent a range
of organisations in
rural areas across
England



We provide a voice for
rural areas in
Parliament

RURAL PLANNING

RURAL ECONOMIES

RURAL TRANSPORT

RURAL AFFORDABLE HOUSING

RURAL CONNECTIVITY

FAIR FUNDING

RURAL NET ZERO

RURAL HEALTH & CARE

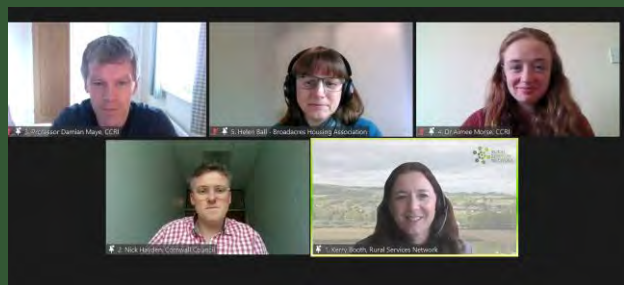
RURAL SERVICES NETWORK

Delivering for Rural

Unlocking Rural Prosperity

Campaigning for a fair deal for rural communities

We hosted a range of events...



Rural Services Network Seminar on #RuralAffordableHousing



Featuring:

- National Housing Federation
- English Rural Housing Association
- Community Land Trust Network



8 Seminars in 2024

512 delegates

187 organisations

73 local authorities

Over 1000 hours of learning



Rural Services Network Seminar on #RuralPlanning



Featuring:

- Lichfield District Council
- ONH
- CPRE



RSN Seminar: Rural Affordable Housing
 Online via Zoom
 11:00-13:00, Wednesday, 26th June 2024

Agenda

- 11:00 Welcome & Introduction to the topic of the Rural Affordable Housing, [Kerry Booth](#), Chief Executive, [Rural Services Network](#)
- 11:05 [Martin Collett](#), Chief Executive, [English Rural Housing Association](#) A Manifesto for Delivering Thriving Rural Communities Through Affordable Housing
Short Q&A with the speaker
- 11:25 [Patrick Merton-Jones](#), External Affairs Manager, [National Housing Federation](#)
Long Term National Housing Plan from a Rural Perspective
Short Q&A with the speaker
- 11:45 [Tom Chance](#), Chief Executive, [Community Land Trust Network](#)
Community Led Rural Development – Opportunities and Challenges
Short Q&A with the speaker
- 12:05 Open forum discussion led by [Kerry Booth](#), Chief Executive of RSN focusing on Rural Affordable Housing.
Wider discussion with evidence and examples of Good Practice that members wish to share.
- 13:00 **Close of Seminar**
If you or your colleagues are interested in attending RSN Seminars, please click on the image below to view our RSN Seminar Programme 2024 and register.



Providing a voice for rural communities and service providers

Rural Services Network
 PO Box 101, Craven Arms, SY7 7AL
 Tel: 01822 851370

www.rsnonline.org.uk email: events@rsn.gov.uk twitter: [@rsnonline](https://twitter.com/rsnonline)

2025

SEMINAR PROGRAMME

Rural Net Zero

29 January
 11:00 - 13:00

BOOK NOW >



Rural Connectivity

26 February
 11:00 - 13:00

BOOK NOW >



Rural Communities

26 March
 11:00 - 13:00

BOOK NOW >



Rural Economy

30 April
 11:00 - 13:00

BOOK NOW >



Rural Transport

04 June
 11:00 - 13:00

BOOK NOW >



Rural Housing

02 July
 11:00 - 13:00

BOOK NOW >



Rural Planning

05 November
 11:00 - 13:00

BOOK NOW >



Rural Health & Care

25 November
 11:00 - 13:00

BOOK NOW >



Seminars are FREE for RSN Members.
www.rsnonline.org.uk

RSN Seminar: Rural Economy
 Online via Zoom
 11:00-13:00, Wednesday, 24th April 2024

Agenda

- 11:00 Welcome & Introduction to the topic of the Rural Economy
[Kerry Booth](#), Chief Executive, [Rural Services Network](#)
- 11:05 [Katie Davey Dalsgaard](#), Good Growth Strategy & Implementation Lead, and [Claire Hurley](#), Good Growth Strategy & Implementation Manager, [Cornwall Council](#)
Generating Good Growth for the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Rural Economy
Short Q&A with the speaker
- 11:25 [Sarah Harriss](#) and [Beth Kerwin](#), Rural Statisticians, [DEFRA](#)
Statistical Digest of Rural England
Short Q&A with the speaker
- 11:45 [Nick Humfrey](#), Head of Institutions, English Devolutions, and [Till Specht](#), Head of Funding and Design for Levelling Up, [DLUHC](#)
Presentation Title TBC
Short Q&A with the speaker
- 12:05 **Open forum discussion led by Kerry Booth, Chief Executive of RSN focusing on the Rural Economy**
Wider discussion with evidence and examples of Good Practice that members wish to share.
- 13:00 **Close of Seminar**
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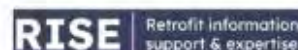
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- 655 delegates attended the RSN National Rural Conference in 2024.
- 131 organisations participating with 27 experienced speakers sharing their experiences and expertise with delegates

MEETINGS | NEWS | RURAL PLANNING | CONSULTATION | LOCAL AUTHORITY | RURAL HOUSING | RURAL AFFORDABLE HOUSING

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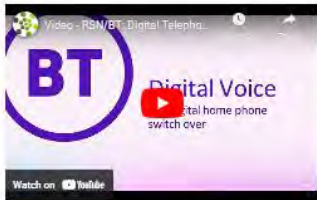
RSN facilitated an exclusive event for RSN Local Authorities and members of the Rural Services Partnership to hear from BT on the Digital Home Phone Switchover and what it means for their rural communities.

It is important that Local Authorities and rural organisations can signpost their residents to trusted sources of information about the switchover and where to go for help. The resources below will support you with this process.

There is a video of the presentation given by Vicky Hicks, Head of Engagement at BT below which can be shared with your colleagues. In addition, the slide pack is also available and has lots of relevant information.

Vicky Hicks, Head of Engagement, BT Group. "The digital home phone switch over & how to access help and support"

View the video of the presentation below:



Download the presentation slides below:



Speakers:

Vicky Hicks, Head of Engagement, BT Group
<https://www.bt.com/about>

Kerry Booth, Chief Executive, Rural Services Network
<https://www.ruralservicesnetwork.co.uk/page/about-us/kerry-booth/>

MEETINGS | NEWS | RURAL PLANNING | CONSULTATION | LOCAL AUTHORITY | RURAL HOUSING | RURAL AFFORDABLE HOUSING

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-To download the Agenda for this seminar [click here](#)

POST EVENT:

PRESENTATIONS

Kerry Booth, Chief Executive, Rural Services Network, "Rural Services Network Campaigning and rural policy"



Nadine Trout, Assistant Chief Executive, Rural Services Network, "Introduction to RSN Services"



NEWS | RURAL PLANNING | CONSULTATION | LOCAL AUTHORITY | RURAL HOUSING | RURAL AFFORDABLE HOUSING

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Last week, the Rural Services Network (RSN) brought together 52 rural housing and planning experts to help shape our formal response to the Government's consultation on proposed reforms to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). With the consultation deadline fast approaching at the end of September, this session provided an essential opportunity to gather insights and perspectives on the impact of the NPPF from a rural lens.

The meeting, attended by a wide range of stakeholders - including Strategic Housing Leads, Planning Officers, and Councillors - focused on several pressing issues. Among them were the housing targets set for local authorities, the specific challenges faced by rural communities in delivering affordable homes, and potential policy measures that could support rural housing needs.

Throughout the session, delegates highlighted concerns around the capacity of rural areas to meet ambitious housing targets, the viability of rural development, and the need for stronger policy support for truly affordable housing.

We've also brought together our members to explore key issues impacting rural communities, the Digital Switchover and NPPF Consultation

**PARLIAMENT
STREET SW1**



**WHITEHALL
SW1**



CITY OF WESTMINSTER



The RSN is representing rural and ensuring that the rural voice is heard:

DEFRA Rural Impact Forum

Rural Coalition

National Centre for Rural Health and Care

Rural Homelessness Coalition

BT Digital Voice Advisory Group

National Rural Crime Network

National Alliance for Cultural Services

Secretariat for All Party Parliamentary Group on Rural Services

All Party Parliamentary Group on Rural Services

Priorities for coming year:

- Rural Fair Funding for Public Services
- Growing the Rural Economy
- Rural Affordable Housing
- Rural Transport
- Rural Health and Care Services

"During my time as a serving Councillor on Somerset Council, I saw firsthand how hard it is for local authorities in rural communities to deliver essential services. I have campaigned for fairer funding and support for rural services since my election as a Member of Parliament, and I am honoured to have been elected as the chair of the APPG for Rural Services. I look forward to working with colleagues from across the political spectrum to deliver stronger outcomes for all of our rural communities".

Sarah Dyke, MP, Chair of Rural Services All Party Parliamentary Group



Rural Coalition

Action with Communities in Rural England	National Housing Federation
Arthur Rank Centre	Plunkett Foundation
CPRE, The Countryside Charity	Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors
National Association of Local Councils	Royal Town Planning Institute
National Centre for Rural Health and Care	Rural Services Network
National Farmers Union	Town and Country Planning Association



The report shows that with the right policy framework, the rural economy could increase productivity significantly, leading to an additional £9 billion to £19 billion per year in tax revenues. This growth would not only support rural communities but also have far-reaching benefits for the national economy, helping to fund essential public services and drive broader economic initiatives.

Rural Lens Review

In recent months, the RSN has undertaken a series of reviews providing a deep dive into government proposals from a rural perspective.





Ensuring rural have a voice in Government consultations

- Voluntary Guidance for Community Benefits for Electricity Transmission network infrastructure
- NHS Consultation 10 year review
- HM Treasury Comprehensive Spending Review
- National Planning Policy Framework
- Industrial Strategy Green Paper

Campaigning for a fair deal for rural communities

RSN Publications straight to your inbox with the information you need:

- Rural News
- Commentary
- Research
- Grant opportunities
- Best practice
- Parliamentary Round Up



We have been working hard to raise the profile of rural services this year



Chief Executive of the RSN along with the Digital Poverty Alliance and Dan Aldridge

