



**RMTG Meeting
Online via Zoom
16:30pm-18pm, Monday, 9th November 2020**

Group Chat from the meeting
For RSN to respond to and take note of

Rural Transport

From Andrea Vincent, Olney Town Council:

As a Market Town we have gradually lost all the transport services that enabled us to be a hub for our neighbouring villages. Without transport to bring folk into the town we cannot provide the services.

From Brian Angell, Clun Town Council with Chapel Lawn:

On the issue of transport there is some disconnect with planning so although Highways are consultates, they only look at immediate access not the wider impact of traffic and public transport needs. Would be interested in any survey to know if that is something others find and how best we can get better integration.

From Cllr Lisa O'Donoghue, Buckingham Town Council:

Yes, please on transport, especially when s106 funding goes, then the service goes!

From Cllr Mike Thompson, St Austell Town Council:

I know that there are "test" areas for the introduction of hydrogen into the public transport system, and how can the infrastructure be developed to ensure that Rural Market Towns can ensure that they have the opportunity to take up the program if it is proved to be an answer in the Carbon Zero target? I guess it also could open up the whole Climate change agenda for all rural market Towns.

Outcome

RSN will seek to run a survey and consult RMTG member on the topic of Rural Transport.

Villages

From Cllr Judith Wright, Biddenden Parish Council:

I am from a large village, both Tenterden and Cranbrook are the nearby market towns. We have been put in this group but possibly our needs are different. Is there a group for smaller settlements?

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Rural Services Network

Kilworthy Park, Tavistock, Devon, PL19 0BZ

Tel: 01822 813693

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Planning

From Julie Holden, East Grinstead Town Council:

I'd like to see some pressure for CIL/S106 where building to border affects the towns infrastructure over the border from new small settlements. the new planning paper has referenced a new CIL, but of course nothing about cross border payments to be mandatory.

From Cllr Diane Ward, Uckfield Town Council:

I would also be interested in the thoughts of the group about planning. We are possibly going to get so many houses, if they are all passed the surrounding villages will not be villages it will become part of our town. Also, how can we get help with trying to get affordable housing. We need houses for our children rather than 4 and 5 executive homes.

From Cllr Alison Trenergy, Uttoxeter Town Council:

Sounds Like Neighbourhood Plans and how they are being ignored is an issue to look at.

Affordable Housing

From Kim Fletcher, Cranbrook and Sissinghurst Parish Council:

A MAJOR ISSUE is the inability for local people to afford to buy homes. Developers build for incomers (From London) and then 'affordable homes' which are not for sale, so non locals with lots of 'points' get foisted into a rural location, where they do not want to be. As a result, our 'artisans' and children are priced out of the market. Parliament does not understand this issue as we are losing our future population to wealthy incomers and social housing

High Street and Business

From Brian Angell, Clun Town Council with Chapel Lawn:

Whilst Transport is crucial and should be an early focus, I think at the current time support for high street and business would be very useful.

From Cllr Philip Wicks, Richmond Town Council in Yorkshire:

Richmondshire District Council is planning to invest in EV charging points. We believe it is important to tourism, as well as benefiting residents who do not have drives/garages.

From Julie Holden, East Grinstead Town Council:

JPI media survey nationally has shown significant changes in wants and needs for working from home and the changing face of the high streets in market towns.

Questions between participants

From Cllr Richard Elvin, Hetton Town Council:

As the only Town/Parish Council in our authority we get very little support from them. How can we ensure they offer us the support they should do in keeping with National Government guidelines?

From Christian Barnes, Kirkby Stephen Town Council:

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Prior to Lockdown we were beginning a transport audit with 'Action with Communities in Cumbria' (ACT). One prospect we have been considering is the use of smart technology to hitch rides. Do any councils have experience of these kind of services.

From Keli Nolan-Lyons Tenterden Town Council Town Centre & Tourism:
Proof in the pudding as I keep cutting out - any updates on rolling out more broadband in rural areas?

From Christian Barnes, Kirkby Stephen Town Council:

I'd be keen also to know what other councils experience of providing EV charging points has been. Please could this be included in any survey activity?

Other matters mentioned

From Cllr Jonathan Davies, Penrith Town Council:

Could an online collaboration forum be established out of this group to continue the conversations between meetings?

From Sally Thurston, Faringdon Town Council:

I have just completed a dissertation on the regeneration of Market Towns for Community Governance Degree. Once market this month I am happy to circulate my findings and recommendations via this group if helpful.

From Cllr Jenny Bartlett, Leominster Town Council:

2011 Localism Bill? set out some markers for principle / parish relations.

From Cllr Robert Hull, Hexham Town Council:

Does the work just described consider the changes the pandemic will produce for market towns?

From Cllr Jonathan Davies, Penrith Town Council:

Has RSN engaged with the CLA who are under the rural powerhouse agenda they have duplicating a lot of what has just being outlined here as the RSN policy/agenda.

Outcome

RSN will seek to explore the idea of facilitating a collaborative forum for the group.

On the topic of other County Level Meetings

In relation to item 7 'Currently Active Town Council Local Networks'

From Andrea Vincent, Olney Town Council:

Yes, buck and MK ALC.

From Cllr Jenny Bartlett, Leominster Town Council:

Herefordshire county market towns forum.

From Clare Harris, Marlborough Town Council:

yes, through the SLCC who hold branch meetings.

From Cllr Jonathan Davies, Penrith Town Council:

Calc in Cumbria are holding events virtually.

From Cllr Martin Tucker, Wotton-under-Edge Town Council:

Gloucester market towns forum regular meetings.

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From Cllr Mike Thompson, St Austell Town Council:

In Cornwall, we have CALC, chaired by Sarah Mason.

From Cllr Jo Durden-Moore, Wendover Parish Council:

Buckinghamshire council has recently divided us all up into 13 'community boards' so grouped the market towns, villages, and parishes together.

From Julie Holden, East Grinstead Town Council:

we have all parish clusters, a towns cluster for district geo ... plus SLCC and ALC county.

From Cllr Lisa O'Donoghue, Buckingham Town Council:

We have Community Boards, set up by Buckinghamshire Council, however Town Cllr's have no right to vote.

From Cllr Diane Ward, Uckfield Town Council:

I attend via zoom WDALC, Wealden District Association of Local Councillors, also we speak with ESCC and WDC councillors at Full Council.

From Cllr Tony Hiron, Lutterworth Town Council:

District Council 'deign' to hold a Parish meeting once a year - and they set the Agenda!

From Cllr Lisa O'Donoghue, Buckingham Town Council:

The Community Boards are given funding to spend on projects in the various Vale areas, so anyone can suggest projects, but they can be turned down by the 'Shire Cllr's.

From Cllr Stephen Bunney, Market Rasen Town Council:

Regional groups would be a good idea.

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