THE RURAL BULLETIN
Exclusively brought to you by the Rural Services Network

THE RURAL SERVICES NETWORK
The National Champion for Rural Services, ensuring people in rural areas have a strong voice

This Rural Bulletin is published by the Rural Services Network and brings you a round up of our existing publications in one place! Get the latest rural news, read our current rural commentary in the Hinterland, focus in on our weekly Spotlight special feature and check out what we've been up to this week at RSN HQ!

If you have any comments on the Rural Bulletin, please contact us here.

LATEST RURAL NEWS

Cautious welcome for social care funding

Borrowing cap scrapped

Rural housing crisis solutions

Calls for a online sales tax

Towns are key election battlegrounds

Rural hospital success reported

Rural maternity services

National recycling confusion

Rural Related Politics - An RSN weekly review

Welcome to the latest Spotlight on Vulnerability - Transport edition - brought to you by the **Rural Services Network** and the **Rural England CIC** in association with **Calor**.

The vulnerability service aims to disseminate information about three key rural issues: fuel poverty, broadband and rural transport.

Rural transport faces many threats - ranging from fuel costs through to the lack of public and community transport in many areas. The topic has rarely been bigger or more pressing.

In Hinterland this week:
Challenges for vulnerable groups: carers, young people with poor mental health, "County Line" victims. Some optimism on the people front linked to the innovation of group GP appointments. Controversy over fracking and the soothing balm of the summer festival with Glastonbury selling out in 30 minutes! ***Read on...***

Watch this space for information and updates from the new Rural Health and Care Alliance!

As you may have heard a new rural network focusing on Rural Health has been established. The Rural Health and Care Alliance is a joint initiative between the Rural Services Network and the new National Centre for Rural Health and Care and will be launched in Parliament on Tuesday 16th October. It is the first time a national initiative of this nature has been taken in relation to rural health across England.

There will be a membership fee. We are however seeking to minimise that for RSN members due to their current involvement with RSN.

In a 2017 national survey involving people in rural areas the availability of Health Services in rural areas topped the list of those issues that the 2,500 people commenting were most concerned about.

It is important that the network is set up to both explore and represent the rural case in relation to rural health and rural health services and we will continue to work to this end. It is also vital that individual local authorities across England are involved as part of their day to day operation.

Follow us on twitter @ruralhca for the latest updates and details of the Rural Health and Care Alliance as it is launched!

WHAT'S NEW THIS WEEK AT RSN HQ!

Yesterday we held our **North West Regional Seminar** which was kindly hosted by Lancashire County Council. It included a presentation from Daniel Heery and focussed on connectivity and broadband in rural areas with a discussion of the issues facing communities in the North West. Keep an eye out on our events page for the presentations!

Our Chief Executive, Graham Biggs, is speaking as part of a panel discussion today in York aimed at **tackling rural inequalities**. Its one of two seminars so you still have a chance to book a ticket to one taking place in Exeter on 18th October. Sponsored by Calor, they aim to explore how we can tackle rural inequalities, enabling the Government to deliver the ambitions of the Clean Growth Strategy in decarbonising homes and more widely ensuring all Government departments assess the effects of their policies on rural areas to ensure that outcomes are fair and equitable.
Places can be booked here

We welcome three new members to our **Rural Services Partnership**, the Rural Business Awards, the National Care Forum and the Farming Community Network.

LATEST RESEARCH & COMMENTARY

[Are we really headed for a cashless rural society?](#)

Brian Wilson investigates

How we pay for goods and services, and how we access cash are changing rapidly with rural consequences.

The continuing closure of bank branches, along with recent evidence about the loss of cash machines (ATMs), is building into a significant news story about access to cash. It is one that has implications both for households and businesses, and one that has a significant rural dimension.
Read more....

The RSN is sponsored by First

RURAL FUNDING DIGEST

GOVERNMENT CONSULTATIONS

The **latest** edition of the **Funding Digest** can be viewed [here](#)

Looking for funding for your local project or community group? This monthly bulletin includes links to various sources of grant funding that you may be able to access!

Read the **latest RSN suggested draft responses** for key rural consultations and view the latest Government Consultations that may be relevant to rural communities [here](#)

The Rural Observatory - provides analysis, facts, figures and commentary impacting upon rural communities
Visit the Rural Observatory [here](#)

Find out about our campaign for fairer funding for rural areas [here](#)
This includes our work on the Local Government Finance Settlement

EVENTS & MEETINGS

BECOME A MEMBER

RSN PRIORITIES
Public Sector Funding, Barriers to Access, Future of Rural Areas, Health and Wellbeing

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