



THE RURAL BULLETIN

Exclusively brought to you by the Rural Services Network



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



[Government urged to produce new rural strategy](#)



[Time for a rural strategy](#)



[Councils selling public spaces to cover costs](#)



[Schools 'at breaking point' over funding](#)



[Calor provides £70,000 for rural community projects](#)



[Government must protect rural convenience shops](#)



[Don't forget rural towns and areas, minister urges](#)



[More than 100 rural schools get super-fast broadband](#)



[Rural Business Awards winners announced](#)



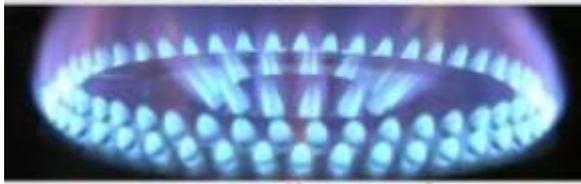
[BT vetoes plan to fix rural mobile 'not spots'](#)



[Rural Related Politics - An RSN weekly review](#)

[The town with no free cash machines](#)

SPOTLIGHT ON VULNERABILITY FUEL POVERTY EDITION



Welcome to the latest [Spotlight on Fuel Poverty](#) - brought to you by the **Rural Services Network** and the **Rural England CIC** in association with **Calor**.

Limited options for fuel in rural localities – many of which lack mains gas – make efficient fuel use and insulation particularly important for countryside communities.

In addition, rural residents face the challenges of lower average wages, an ageing population and

single-skin, solid wall or non-cavity wall properties.

The **Rural Services Network** believes the national picture must not mask this extra rural dimension.



In [Hinterland](#) this week:

Challenges for farmers and fishermen, controversy around policy impacts on old people, the countryside and wind farms all finished off with a heart warming story about someone who has decided they love a lurcher! [Read on...](#)

WHAT'S NEW THIS WEEK AT RSN HQ!

Friday 1st March saw the launch of the **RSN call on Government to produce a Rural Strategy**. The call is the result of concern that deep-seated challenges to the sustainability of rural communities and service delivery in rural areas have been inadequately addressed by those in power for too long and the situation has become urgent. More information is available [here](#)

The Rural Services Network has also asked its

LATEST RESEARCH & COMMENTARY



[The Brexit vote in rural communities](#)

There's a **new podcast available from Carole Walker**.

member organisations to support their call by **signing up to their call on Government**. More information on how to give your support and join the call is available [here](#)

Don't forget you can still book a place at the **South West Regional Seminar** and Networking event which is kindly been held at East Devon District Council. It focuses on **Rural Housing** and more information is available [here](#)

Lord Cameron of Dillington is hosting a one day conference on Friday 8th March which will consider how **a new Rural Strategy can deliver for rural communities in England and call on the Government to produce such a strategy**. The event aims to champion a new Rural Strategy to rural proof all future national policy, to raise the profile of the communities of rural England and promote genuine equality for the next generation of residents living in rural England; they are as much citizens of England as any other. Further details and how to book are available [here](#)

This episode, is titled '*The Brexit vote in rural communities*' and features George Freeman, MP for Mid-Norfolk and a former minister, who details why so many people in rural communities voted for Brexit and are in despair at the endless bickering over the decision to leave the EU

[Access the podcast here](#)



[That it costs more to deliver health and care in rural areas is well-rehearsed among RSN members. But how much more does it actually cost to deliver in rural areas and are these costs recognised in current funding formulae?](#)

Jessica Sellick investigates

[Read more....](#)

The RSN is sponsored by **First** 



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](#)



RURAL OBSERVATORY

The Rural Observatory - provides analysis, facts, figures and commentary impacting upon rural communities

Visit the Rural Observatory [here](#)



FAIRER FUNDING

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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