



# 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](#)



[Shadow Defra Minister: 'Rural areas not Gov priority'](#)



[Shops should be forced to accept cash](#)



[MP - too much power concentrated in cities](#)



[Rural businesses close as they struggle to find staff](#)



[Future High Streets Fund criticised](#)



[Baroness Tyler comments on bank closures](#)



[How to reduce rural ambulance waits](#)



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



On 1st March, the Rural Services Network launched a campaign calling on the Government to develop a Rural Strategy.

We are asking members to support this call by signing a petition [here](#)

**Additional Information:**

- [Further details about the campaign](#)

- [Supporters of the campaign](#)

- [RSN template report 'Time for a Rural Strategy'](#)



The [Spotlight on Heart of the Village](#) is brought to you by the Rural Services Network and highlights a selection of current news and research stories into rural communities and village services.

In this edition we detail the 'Outreach' Post Offices Services to rural communities, review a selection of news stories pertinent to communities and provide information on the rural convenience stores report 2019. We also provide a contemporary analysis piece on the lessons of rural transport provision. Access all this and much more [here](#)



In [Hinterland](#) this week:

The implications of land ownership for economic development in rural areas, key rural staffing shortages in the NHS, the creeping influence of surveillance capitalism, RBS and local authority debt, the potentially unintended consequences of proposed environmental taxes and an upsurge in holiday camp investment! [Read on...](#)

## WHAT'S NEW THIS WEEK AT RSN HQ!



We will soon be featuring a **broadband deal specifically for the RSN members** from one of our RSP members **EE**. Look out for more details in future editions of the Rural Bulletin.

## LATEST RESEARCH & COMMENTARY





Last week saw the **South West Regional Housing Seminar /Networking event** take place which was kindly hosted by East Devon Council. There were presentations by Nikki Knowles of the National Housing Federation, Vic Ebdon from Devon Communities Together and Peter Moore of Cornwall Rural Housing Association followed by wider discussion on delivering housing in rural areas.

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We will watch with interest the Westminster Hall Debate on Wednesday this week on [Local Government Funding](#).

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**James Brokenshire MP** will have given evidence last night to the Housing Communities and Local Government Select Committee on Brexit and its impact on Local Government. Lets hope that he fully considers the impact on Rural Areas of Brexit and has plans in place to mitigate any negative impact.

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The RSN is sponsored by **First** 



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

## [Developing a theory of change: mapping out the “missing \[rural\] middle” or \(re\)describing a process?](#)

A ‘theory of change’ involves people coming together to think about the difference that they want to make (and with whom), the context within which they work and what activities they need to undertake to lead to this positive change. But does a theory of change have a transformative effect on community projects or is it retrospective in leading us to reflect on what we’re already doing? Jessica Sellick investigates.

- Read the full article [here](#)

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## [The Brexit vote in rural communities](#)

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

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](#)



Read the **latest RSN suggested draft responses** for key rural consultations and view the latest Government

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!

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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