



# 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](#).



### ADVERTISEMENT

#### Say hello to superfast speeds with the 4GEE Home Router from EE

Not getting the speeds you really want from your home internet? Then say hello to EE's 4GEE Home Router. It's the alternative to standard broadband, with speeds as fast as fibre

**RSN members get an exclusive 20% off on all 18-month plans**

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## LATEST RURAL NEWS



[Post Office funding crisis looms](#)



[500,000 patients forced to find new GP](#)



[High street favourites forced to close stores](#)



[Councils spend millions on empty buildings](#)



[Potential £1 billion boost for local charities with new recycling scheme](#)

[Rural 'healthcare deserts' identified](#)



[Response to the House of Lords Select Committee on the Rural Economy](#)

[Fly-tipping is not a victimless crime](#)



[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.

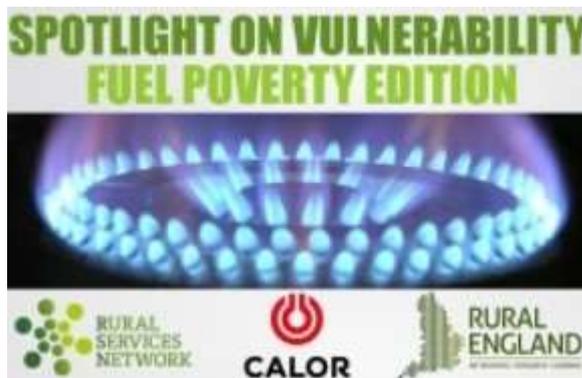
We are asking members to support this call by signing a petition [here](#)

Additional Information:

- [Further details about the campaign](#)

- [Supporters of the campaign](#)

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



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.

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

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

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



In [Hinterland](#) this week: Declining numbers of GP surgeries, spatial inequality, reducing

budgets, twee views of the countryside, rural labour market challenges and a scary crow. [Read on...](#)

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

Our CX Graham Biggs is preparing this week to give evidence to the **EFRA Select Committee next week on Rural Broadband and Digital only services**. They are currently calling for evidence and further information can be found [here](#).

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In the coming months the **RSN Observatory** section will be changing with the provision of Observatory - Member Insights, where our member authorities will be able to search for the analyses and data that define their areas. The latest sample analysis can now be found for: Currently sitting in the Observatory Housing Section:

- [Private Rental Affordability \(2010 to 2018\)](#)
- [Homelessness and Temporary Accommodation \(2010/11 to 2017/18\)](#)
- [Housing Affordability \(2012 to 2018\)](#)

As the Member Insights section takes shape, further details of the analyses available will be advertised here in What's New, so keep checking back for more information.

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Don't forget we are still taking bookings for our next Regional Seminar which takes place on 28th June in Durham and focuses on Sustainable Rural Communities. Please contact [admin@sparse.gov.uk](mailto:admin@sparse.gov.uk) for more information and to book on

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## LATEST RESEARCH & COMMENTARY



### [Apprenticeships – training people for \(rural\) jobs of the future?](#)

What are apprenticeships, how does the current system work and what needs to be done to ensure more are on offer in rural areas?

*Jessica Sellick investigates.*

- Read the full article [here](#)

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### [How can we develop a picture of income \[in\]equality in the countryside?](#)

The gap between the poorest and richest households appears to be growing; thus reversing a downward trend over the previous 10 years. What is income inequality and how prevalent is it in rural areas?

*Jessica Sellick investigates.*

- Read the full article [here](#)

The RSN is sponsored by **First** 



### RURAL FUNDING DIGEST

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!



### GOVERNMENT CONSULTATIONS

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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