

Parliamentary Rural Vulnerability Day
Thursday 25th January 2018
Attlee Suite, Portcullis House,
Parliament, London

Rural Vulnerability Matters

#ruralvulnerability

GOOD TO KNOW



#ruralvulnerability

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@ruralenglandcic
@RSNonline



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Graham Biggs MBE, Chief Executive, Rural Services

Graham has led the RSN since its creation in the early 2000s. For over 20 years he was Chief Executive of the former South Shropshire District Council, one of England's most sparsely populated districts. He has a wealth of experience in the management and delivery of services across sparsely populated districts.

Graham is a board member of CONNEXUS Housing Group and a number of its subsidiary bodies, including being the Chair of its contracting arm Total Response Ltd.

He is a Chartered Secretary and Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Secretaries and Administrators. He was awarded an MBE in 1995 for 'Services to Local Government'.

Graham has given evidence to the Parliamentary Select Committees relating to the Local Government Funding Formulae and rural policy. He acts as Principal Advisor to the All Party Parliamentary Group on Rural Services for which the RSN provides the Secretariat.

Brian Wilson Chair of Directors for Rural England CIC

Brian Wilson is the Chair of Directors at Rural England CIC. He is also the author of Rural England's report on the *State of Rural Services 2016*.

Brian is a research and policy consultant who specialises in rural policy, rural proofing, economic development, service provision and neighbourhood planning.

His career prior to becoming a consultant included significant periods as an Executive Director at the Countryside Agency and Commission for Rural Communities, a Programme Director in the local government sector and a professional researcher in the civil service.

Councillor Cecilia Motley (Shropshire Council) Chair of Rural Services Network

Cecilia has been Shropshire Council's representative on the Rural Services Network since 2007 and a Vice Chair up to 2014 when she was elected Chair.

Cecilia has been a local government Councillor since 2003 and is a past Leader of South Shropshire District Council. When Shropshire became a Unitary Council in 2009 she was elected to represent a large rural division in the south of the county and joined the Cabinet representing Rural Services and Local Communities. She therefore brings first-hand knowledge of the issues affecting rural and very sparse communities.

Cecilia represents Shropshire on the Local Government Association and the County Councils Network, is a Board Member of Arts Council Midlands, representing Rural authorities, and a past member of the Governing Council of West Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust.

Margaret Clark CBE Chair of Rural England Stakeholder Group

Margaret chairs the Rural England CIC Stakeholder Group. She spent her career in government agencies specialising in rural development policy and practice.

She was Deputy Chief Executive at the Countryside Agency and led the team to set up the Commission for Rural Communities and became one of its first Directors.

She chairs the Rural Coalition, an alliance of 12 national organisations with a shared vision of living and working rural communities, and the Plunkett Foundation, which supports community-owned businesses in rural areas.

She is also a member of CPRE's national trustee board.

SPEAKERS

Dr Jane Hart

Jane is a self-employed rural consultant with a particular interest in rural services and rural vulnerability. Her areas of expertise include rural social policy; rural deprivation; rural economy; conservation of the built environment; and strategic and local planning policy issues.

Prior to becoming a consultant in 2011, Jane spent over 30 years in various Local Authority planning roles including research, policy, and senior management, in rural areas of Wales, Scotland and England.

She is a Director of Rural England CIC and a chartered Town Planner.

Jo Lavis

Jo Lavis is a Director of Rural England CIC and Director of Rural Housing Solutions. She has over 30 years' experience working on rural policy with a focus on delivering rural affordable housing.

Her experience extends across the UK, working at community, local authority and national levels on policy and practice, including providing the secretariat for the Lord Best Review of Rural Affordable Housing.

She is the housing technical adviser for ACRE and is Vice Chair of the National Community Land Trust Network and Lincolnshire Community Land Trust.

Nick Hubbard

A Volunteer for Citizens Advice Sedgemoor in the Research & Campaigns role: because he was "born argumentative and trained to argue as a law graduate. Used to argue for 43 years by the police service in a varied career, there at the birth of police IT and latterly as a cyber security specialist; think also of the inner-city riots in the 1980s. Hobbies include arguing under the guise of Philosophy.

A retired family man in Somerset, but still proud to be Welsh - particularly during the rugby competitions.

Still naively hoping that the world can be a better place".

Jools Townsend

Jools is Chief Executive of the Association of Community Rail Partnerships, providing strategic leadership to a team of 13 and across ACoRP's members and partners. ACoRP works to support and champion community rail: a grassroots movement made up of 1,000+ groups and partnerships across Britain that engage communities in their railways. Community rail is all about ensuring communities get the most from their railways, promoting rail as a key part of sustainable travel, and bringing people together.

Jools joined ACoRP in 2016 after 10 years at Brake, the road safety charity, leading high-profile national campaigns, policy and community engagement work. Jools previously headed up communications and policy functions at regional charities Better Start Bradford and East Thames Group. Her experience also includes voluntary roles within community groups promoting sustainable living, including as Chair of Streatham Common Community Garden.

Jools holds a Master's Degree in Political Communication (focusing on how NGOs can affect social change through communications) and Bachelor's Degree in English Language and Literature.

Jools is passionate about the third sector, promoting sustainable travel, and enjoying the great outdoors.

Dawn Stoddern

Dawn Stoddern has worked in Local Government for over 30 years. Working for Cornwall County Council since 1988 discovering her passion for teaching digital skills and has lead the Digital and Online Support Team since 2014.

Dawn believes that the 'local' in local public services really matters and by working with and building partnerships with neighbourhoods, organisations and the voluntary sector in rural communities real change can be achieved and sustained.

"I believe that by working together through sharing our digital understanding we all have the ability to create better outcomes for people - leaving no one behind."

Jo Giles

Described by Steve Crabb, Director of Consumer Vulnerability at British Gas, “Jo Giles... has single handily done more to improve customer safeguarding in the last twelve months than everyone else put together”

Jo joined the energy industry just over five years ago with a background of customer experience expertise. Jo has through networking and influencing been able to build the well-established and respected Safeguarding Customers Working Group.

Jo uses her passion and drive to improve the consistency in how the industry safeguards its customers and people, to positively impact the approach they take within Cadent.

Professor Martin Powell

Martin specialises in: Health policy, especially New Labour; choice and consumerism; decentralization; partnership and history of health care before the NHS and social policy, especially historical and geographical dimensions, citizenship, equity, theories of welfare state development.

Martin has worked at the Universities of Glamorgan, Hertfordshire, Portsmouth, Bath and Stirling. He is the Editor of 'Social Policy and Administration'. He lectures on the PhD programme at Institute of Governance, University of Maastricht. He is on the Editorial Advisory Board for 'Policy Press' and he has given keynote speeches at events in Italy and South Africa.

Paul Blacklock

Paul Blacklock graduated from the University of Wales (Swansea) with a degree in geography, having majored in climatology. He joined Calor in 1985 and since then has held a number of different senior roles in both the UK and overseas - mainly in marketing and sales.

Calor was first established in 1935 and has since grown to become the UK's leading supplier of LPG. Calor does more than three quarters of its business in the countryside and so has a deep interest in rural issues. It has been campaigning on rural fuel poverty since 2009 under its FREE programme.

EXHIBITORS

ACRE

Calor Gas Ltd

Germinate

Gigaclear

Plunkett

Prince's Countryside Fund

Priority Services Register (DNOs)

Severn Trent Water

WiRE

NOTES

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RURAL ENGLAND PUBLICATIONS

Issues facing Providers of Social Care at Home to Older Residents in Rural England
Report by Dr Jane Hart and Jo Lavis. Please see press release in delegate pack.
Report will be available on our website.

<https://ruralengland.org/category/reports/>

State of Rural Services Report

Published in January 2017 this report presents the most recent evidence regarding the provision of services to residents and businesses in rural England. It covers nine service areas, which are: local buses and community transport, welfare services, access to cash, further education, the retail sector, mental health services, older people's services, public health services and community assets.

<https://ruralengland.org/the-state-of-rural-services-2016-report/>

Rural Vulnerability – Older People

This research investigates key issues affecting the vulnerability of older rural residents and considers their future implications in the context of an ageing rural population. It includes chapters on Income and Poverty, Health, Adverse Actions of Others and Isolation and Loneliness

<https://ruralengland.org/rural-vulnerability-older-people/>

ABOUT THE ORGANISERS

RURAL ENGLAND CIC

Rural England is a Community Interest Company managed by its team of Directors.

Our mission is to build the strength and resilience of rural England by helping to inform and engender better rural policy making.

We do this by encouraging informed debate, providing independent research and evidence and supporting informed information exchange

There are two strands to Rural England CIC; our Stakeholders and our Supporters.

- The Stakeholder group is made up of representatives from over 30 National organisations in England who have rural interests or concerns and people previously involved with the Commission for Rural Communities. The Stakeholders' role is to help steer the work and shape the outputs (research reports, etc). The CIC is seeking to undertake independent research, establish rural networks and identify and broadcast best rural practice.
- The Supporter group (approx. 30 members) is made up mainly of infrastructure companies, currently Energy, Water Companies and Broadband providers, plus Land Owners and Land Agents, who are prepared to support our aims by investing annually through subscriptions into this national research, networking and best practice work.

Having a robust, up-to-date and trusted evidence base about rural areas and services matters. It is a basis for assessing the right policy responses to rural challenges and opportunities. It enables informed debate about the best way to deliver services and initiatives to rural communities and businesses. In a fast changing world, it is a means for identifying rural trends and upcoming issues.

<https://ruralengland.org/>

RURAL SERVICES NETWORK (RSN)

The RSN is the national champion for rural services, ensuring people in rural areas have a strong voice. We are fighting for a fair deal for rural communities to maintain their social and economic viability for the benefit of the nation as a whole. We have over 150 local authorities and over 100 other rural service providers in membership.

We work hard to make representations on issues affecting rural services, promote active networking on rural issues and establish and broadcast rural best practice. We also promote debate and interaction between agencies and across sectors' joint interest for example rural crime, rural housing, broadband provision and rural health.

www.rsnonline.org.uk