

# Rural England CIC: Our work during 2018/19

Supporters meeting, 30<sup>th</sup> April 2019

Brian Wilson and David Inman



# Purpose of the organisation

- **Reverse the decline in the rural evidence base**
- **Encourage dissemination and sharing of rural evidence**
- **Stir debate about rural policy issues**
- **Inform policy making and delivery relevant to rural issues**
- **Produce independent, credible research findings**

# How we work



**Directors**

**Stakeholders**

**Supporters**

- **6 Directors plus a Company Secretary**
- **35 organisations on the Stakeholder Group**
- **33 financial Supporters (including 3 core and 2 fulcrum sponsors)**

# Research projects during 2018/19

- **State of Rural Services 2018**
- **Rural Fuel Poverty review**
- **Rural 16-18 Year Old's Access to FE and apprenticeships (ongoing)**
- **Rural Residents Opinion Survey on Housing**

**Plus some commissioned work on awareness of the Priority Services Register in rural areas.**

# Other work during 2018/19

- **Rural Vulnerability Day held in the Houses of Parliament on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2019**
- **Evidence provided to consultations:**
  - **Access to Cash Review**
  - **Rural Health & Social Care Inquiry**
- **Presentation to the House of Lords inquiry on the Rural Economy**
- **Meeting held with rural academics from across the UK (the RPPRG)**

# Media coverage for SORS 2018

- **14 radio interviews (including Farming Today and PM on BBC Radio 4)**
- **2 TV station interviews**
- **8 print media articles (including Daily Telegraph and Daily Mail)**
- **SORS hashtag Tweeted by 20 organisations with over 55,000 followers**

**Main story highlighted was mobile coverage in rural areas, though other issues were raised.**

# Housing Opinion Survey (1)

- **Joint project with CCRI (Gloucs University)**
- **Survey using the Rural Panel**
- **714 complete responses from rural residents**
- **Asked for views about housing priorities and housing development**



# Housing Opinion Survey (2)

- **New housing development divides rural opinion (almost equally)**
- **Longer term residents and those in rented housing are more positive about it**
- **Strong preference for housing that is “affordable” and “for local people”**
- **Older residents dislike concept of ‘generation gap’, but sympathise with plight of the young**
- **Widespread dissatisfaction with current housing policies and many want stronger intervention**



**Any questions or comments?**



# Our planned work in 2019/20

- **Complete research on Rural 16-18 Year Old's Access to FE and Apprenticeships**
- **Undertake one new rural research projects (from shortlisted options)**
- **Organise early 2020 Rural Vulnerability Day**
- **Develop Rural Panel further and use it to run at least one further survey (with CCRI)**