

# RURAL VULNERABILITY DAY 2021



## The Rural Challenges around Decarbonisation, Bus Services and Rural Lives

### Speakers:



#### **Margaret Clark CBE (Chair of Event)**

I currently chair both the Rural England Stakeholders Group and the Rural Coalition, an alliance of 13 national organisations in England with a shared vision of a living and working countryside. I am also a member of CPRE's national trustee board. I was previously chair of the Plunkett Foundation and of the Hastoe Housing Group.

My career was spent in government agencies specialising in rural development policy and practice and for several years I was the UK's representative on the OECD's Rural Working Party and its chair for 7 years.

Having spent most of my life in London, I now live in Dorset with first-hand experience of rural life.



#### **Nigel Wilcock**

Nigel is Managing Director of the economic development consultancy Mickledore Ltd. and has 20 years' experience in regeneration and economic development and was previously Regional Development Director for Ernst & Young.

Prior to Ernst & Young, Nigel worked for the North West Development Agency and Deloitte. Nigel is a graduate economist and a member of the Chartered Institute of Marketing. His experience is in leading large-scale regeneration and economic development projects and he has done this both nationally and internationally.

In the UK he has worked on assignments across every region as well as advising national government. Nigel has a particular specialism in European State Aid and also advises corporate clients on public sector funding opportunities.

Nigel has been a member of the Institute since 2006; became Chair of the North West Branch of the IED in 2006 and was elected as a national Director in October 2010. Since December 2014, Nigel has been Executive Director of the IED.



#### **Andy Parker**

Andy Parker is the Head of Strategy & Corporate Affairs at Calor Gas UK Ltd and is a regular speaker at energy events related to decarbonisation of energy, fuel poverty and rural issues.

With over 2 million rural properties unconnected to the gas grid, these are homes and buildings that need to decarbonise their energy demand to achieve the 2050 Net Zero target. Calor have already started this transition and now offers renewable bioLPG into the market, with a target of being fully renewable by 2040.

Andy is focussed on ensuring this renewable future is included in the UK Government plans for off grid homes, particularly for those "hard to treat" properties where lower temperature electricity pathways are not financially or technically suitable.



#### **Dr Karen Barrass**

Dr Karen Barrass, Policy and Research Manager, UK100 has been working on climate issues for 20 years and her extensive experience lies in research and advocacy - developing insight and policy tools and leading campaigns to affect positive change.

Before joining UK100 in 2020, Karen spent four years advising European parliamentarians on climate, air quality and transport and working with communities across the South East.

Karen's doctorate from Oxford University explored the policy implementation processes and governance changes necessary to decarbonise transport and subsequently as a Research Fellow, she contributed to multiple pan-European research projects concerned with low carbon transport.

As an independent consultant, Karen conducted research for, collaborated with and advised policy actors (at city, state, national and international level) on the issues of energy, transport and climate change. Karen began her career at The Climate Group where she worked on multiple projects, including the establishment of the States and Regions Alliance - now the Under2 Coalition.



#### **Daniel Carey-Dawes**

Daniel leads CPRE's Rural Economy and Communities Team which campaigns on public transport, the rural economy, community energy, affordable housing, agriculture and landscape enhancement.

Previously, Daniel spent six years working on environmental policy at the Greater London Authority. He holds an MA in Modern British History from Queen Mary College, University of London.



#### **Professor Mark Shucksmith OBE**

Mark Shucksmith OBE is Professor of Planning at Newcastle University, where he also directed the Institute for Social Renewal from 2012-18, and Visiting Professor at Rurallis, Trondheim. His research focuses on social exclusion in rural areas, rural housing and rural development. He is the author of 17 books and over 110 papers.

He recently led the Rural Lives study of social exclusion and financial vulnerability in rural Britain, funded by the Standard Life Foundation.

Mark recently served as Specialist Adviser to two House of Lords Select Committees, a role he previously performed in the Scottish Parliament. He was Chair of the Scottish Government's Committee of Inquiry into Crofting (2007-08) and a Board member of England's Countryside Agency and Commission for Rural Communities (2005-13).

He is a Trustee of the Carnegie UK Trust and of ACRE.



#### **Brian Wilson**

Brian Wilson is the Chair of Directors at Rural England CIC. He recently led Rural England's research on a Rural Proofing for Health Toolkit and on Net Zero in Rural Areas.

Brian Wilson is a freelance consultant who specialises in rural policy and rural development. He has undertaken commissioned projects for a range of well-known public, private and civil society sector organisations at national, regional and local levels.

Prior to consultancy his career included substantive spells as a Director at the Countryside Agency and Commission for Rural Communities, as a Programme Manager in the local government sector and as a research professional in the civil service. He was a specialist adviser in 2018/19 to the House of Lords Select Committee on the Rural Economy.