

Milly Southworth

From: David Inman <david.inman@sparse.gov.uk>
Sent: 18 November 2022 16:57
To: clerk@torpointtowncouncil.gov.uk
Subject: Rural/Market Town Group- Torpoint Town Council.
Attachments: SERVICES OFFERED (RMTG).docx

Hi Milly,

Further to our chat of Fri aft I attach previous correspondence below and a link to the RMTG area of our website.. <https://www.rsnonline.org.uk/page/rural-market-town-group> We have some 240 of England's Towns and Larger Parishes from across England working with us and we would like to increase that number to 300 +. That would be significant as it would be some half of all the rural towns across England. That's important because support from the Towns themselves is vital if we collectively are to be listened to. We attach as the pdf details of our service offer to our membership.

We do hope Torpoint T.C. can take up this offer of five months free service with us. We do think we need an active **rural** town and parish network if government is ever going to treat rural places and its towns a tad more seriously and widen out from its financial obsession with very large towns and cities..

- please scroll down for the earlier e mails.

We do think there is much to be gained if the rural towns and the larger rural parishes (we acknowledge that the term 'town' is not one all such communities employ) across England can come together and work together more. . With a network we will be in a position to learn from one another. We have already seven of the Cornish towns in membership.

We run a Clerks Group, a Councillor Advisory Group and Rural Sounding Boards on both Older and on Young People. We will expand this further as we grow.

We send out a 'Round Up' every second month across our membership. Here is a link to recent distributions. RMTG Round Up. <https://mailchi.mp/rsnonline/rural-market-town-group-roundup-august-2022> and <https://mailchi.mp/rsnonline/rural-market-town-group-roundup-october-2022> We do seek to give useful information through these. There will be a further issue of this in December.

We also attach a link to the form of Funding Digest RSN, in whose Grouping RMTG is, issue every month <https://mailchi.mp/rsnonline/rsn-rural-funding-digest-october-2022>

Please feel free to ring me if you have any queries etc. Please can Torpoint take up our free offer so that you can test us out? . It creates no further obligation after March, and you will decide at that stage whether you feel the Council are benefiting from the service.

The subscription for the next financial year (23/24) should you wish to remain then will be around £115 per annum, plus the VAT, which you are likely to be able to recover. We deliberately look to keep the subscription rate low.

Please do give us a try to find out what we can do for Torpoint.

We look forward to hearing from you and we very much hope working with you/.

Kindest regards,

David

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23rd September

Dear Milly,

Further to previous correspondence just to tell you we have now extended that free trial period to the **31st of March 2023** to give many new Town Councils the opportunity to work with us. It is vital that we achieve as many localities as possible backing the national Rural / Market Town case. The number of Towns involved and their spread across England is very important.

A reminder of what we are about:-

[Please click here to view the Rural Market Town Group leaflet which sets out more information about the group.](#)

The current free offer is around for you to take advantage of and decide, now in March 2023, whether you wish after that to continue on a low subscription basis in the 23/24 financial year. Please be assured there is no future commitment involved in trying the Group out now and then next March you will freely decide whether you wish to remain involved.

Please can Torpoint, an important historic Market Town, please experience our service and what we seek to do. As said no money at all is payable during this trial, and you have absolutely nothing to lose by doing this, but much to gain. Rural communities and rurally based towns deserve a higher national profile. Please drop us an e mail by return and agree to try us out and we will commence your service forthwith.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Market Towns, come from many different sources, but we now need to work together if we are to be heard. With so many issues surrounding all of us there can't be a better time to be pressing ahead with initiatives like this.

Kindest regards,

David

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The Rural Services Network seeks to provide a voice for rural communities by representing rural services, networking between rural service organisations and establishing and broadcasting best practice in rural service provision. It comprises SPARSE Rural, the Rural Assembly, the wider Rural Services Partnership and the Rural Market Town Group. The organisation works with Rural England, a stand-alone CIC research group.

The Rural Services Partnership Limited is a registered company (0696 0646) in England & Wales.

3rd July 2022

Dear Milly,

Just chasing through on this one. We first wrote in later June.

We realise you get inundated with many e mail requests to the Council and that rural councils are often councils with staff with limited time. This is an offer however tailored to you, as a rural market town, which we would hope you would be prepared to have a good look at. We do feel rural market towns need networks and mechanisms like this going forward if they are to maintain their profile, and this new initiative will be arguing for you. It is one that you and your Council will find very useful. We are working with NALC here and we can only be as good as the support we receive back from individual Towns, and we do hope Torpoint will be interested. We have had a good response from Towns in Cornwall.

The current free offer is around for you to take advantage of and decide in November whether you agree with me or not! Please be assured there is no future commitment involved in trying it out now. [Please click here to view the Rural Market Town Group leaflet which sets out more information about the group.](#)

Please experience our service. No money at all is payable, and you have absolutely nothing to lose by doing this but much to gain. Please drop us a e mail by return and agree to try us out.

We do look forward to hearing back from Torpoint Town Council.

Kindest regards,

David

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RSN working with **inac** in support of Rural Market Towns

Rural/ Market Town Group (RMTG)

WORKING TO ASSIST THE COUNCIL, AND THE RURAL SERVICES IN RESPECT OF YOUR RESIDENTS.

THE SERVICES WE WILL PROVIDE:

Town Promotion

- Promotion to relevant national organisations and policy makers of the importance of members Market and Rural Towns. Their history, their traditions, their markets, and their facilities are important features of the rural economies.
- Support an increased national profile of market towns.
- Work to persuade government that Market Towns are hub centres that provide key services to a wide rural hinterland area and therefore towns in rural areas should not be discounted from being eligible for specific funding pots because of their size.
- **Area Working** – The pattern of local area Market Town meetings is mixed across England. The group could explore this to see if there is any improvement in areas where meetings / joint working is not taking place currently and look at how liaison can take place between this national facing group and existing area arrangements.

Services Focused on Vulnerable People

- **Young People** – To facilitate work in key areas, members are encouraged to nominate a representative interested in young people in their area, who may be contacted to gather specific consultation throughout the year to support national campaigning.
- **The Elderly** – Again if you have a Councillor or staff member who works in or particular interest in this area of activity, we will welcome a nomination of a person with your Council who we can liaise with in relation to work in this area. We seek where we can, to outline the opportunities for people who are in vulnerable situations in Rural Towns.

Economic Development

- **Facilitating Member Networking on a National Economic Level** – through more joint working, networking with the goal of tackling most relevant rural challenges, seeking solutions and improvement.
- **Working with the National Centre for Rural Enterprise.** Annually the Centre will address Councillor Representatives about their work This session will include exploring whether the RMTG can contribute to work and research of the National Centre.
- **Area Profiles** – an Area Profile of your Principal County/Unitary Council issued once a year

setting out key statistics in relation to the rural area. This will help to give the overall picture of their local area to help plan services and understand local issues. (February)

Information & Involvement

- **A Weekly Rural RSN Bulletin** which includes Rural News, Member Insight, Economic Profiling, Spotlights on Economy & Housing, Hinterland, Analysis & Commentary Pieces, Week in Parliament – Politics Roundup and more.
- **A Monthly RSN Funding Digest & Government Consultations** – with funding and grant opportunities, along with relevant Government Consultations related to rural areas.
- **A Rural/Market Town Group (RMTG) Newsletter** – specific newsletter every other month ('Market Town Round Up') highlighting latest relevant policy developments, showcasing useful member good practice examples, net zero information, and signposting members to relevant initiatives and funding opportunities.
- **Involvement in the RSN Consultation Programme** – this includes responding to Government Consultations, White Papers, Calls for Evidence and Select Committee Inquiries. In addition, the Group will help to develop the rural voice at a national level to ensure rural are properly represented. This would be in the form of our own surveys, calls for evidence and case studies. Some surveys will be on the most important topics that were highlighted by RMTG. (Various times throughout the year.)

RMTG Meetings and Joint Working

- **Meetings** – There will be a meeting for RMTG elected representatives twice a year, dedicated for best practice sharing, networking, and group discussions on most relevant rural topics. The Clerks Advisory Panel will also be invited to the Autumn meeting. (April, October) **RMTG Clerks Advisory Panel Meeting** – once a year a meeting for RMTG clerks dedicated for best practice sharing, networking, and group discussions on most relevant rural topics. (March). Possible annual meetings on Charter and Market Promotion.
- **Free Access to the full annual RSN Seminar Programme.** We run 9 seminars throughout the year and access is open to any Councillor Member - not just the nominated member. (Just one or two per member authority please.)
- Members of the RMTG will be able to purchase discounted access to sessions at the **National Rural Conference** subject to places being available.
- **Information Exchange** – A special RMTG Facebook area to facilitate information exchange on a virtual basis.

Good Practice

- **RMTG Good Practice** – collecting, signposting, and informing members on good practice, relevant learning material on key policy areas, delivery challenges and opportunities for rural/market towns. We will operate an Information Exchange to allow members to do this across a series of areas.
- **Engagement and direct involvement in RSN Campaigns.**