

Milly Southworth

From: David Inman <david.inman@sparse.gov.uk>
Sent: 13 January 2023 09:44
To: clerk@torpointtowncouncil.gov.uk
Subject: Rural /Market Towns Group _ Torpoint.

Hi Milly,

Thanks for your phone call last week. That's great news

We are grateful to the Council agreeing to come on board, on trial, with the Rural Market Towns Group. I confirm this is a free trial without any form of commitment longer term. We will ask the Council at the end of June 2023 about continuance in a role involving a small subscription.

Here is a link to our introduction survey. It ticks the box for us re the GDPR legislation and gives us some useful base information to work from. I would be grateful if this could be completed when there is a chance. That from our viewpoint is all the paper - work we need.. Thanks for your help here.

Rural/Market Town Group Member Survey

Nearly 80% of England's land area remains rural, and 11.7 million people live in those rural areas and rural towns. However, policy making for England often tends to look at matters from a mainly urban perspective as it is the most built up of the 4 UK countries. It is noticeable that non of the national organisations majoring on older people and on younger people have particular scope to examine any issues through a rural viewpoint. This means that particular issues facing older and younger people in rural areas can sometimes miss national focus (and possibly consequential rural focus by decision makers).

Last year we set up 2 Rural Market Town Group Rural Sounding Boards - one looking at issues in relation to older people in rural towns; the other one looking at issues facing rurally based younger people. We are now doing likewise with the Rural Village Services Group members looking to set up similar Sounding Boards in relation to village life.

These Boards are made up of councillors particularly interested in Older People and /or Younger People who can set about the task of establishing rural views and evidence which can be passed on by us to these national organisations. We hope that by doing this these national organisations will be able to use these views and evidence thereby facilitating perhaps more comprehensive cross-national work and statements.

Could you possibly ask your Councillors (as well as establishing a particular nominated member for liaison with the Group as a whole - see survey) , whether there are a member or members who may wish to volunteer for the Older Persons or Younger Persons Sounding Board (or both). It is not in any way obligatory for all member councils to be involved in this process for, we are looking for councillors who have a particular interest here. However, were the majority of RMTG Member Councils to be involved, by a volunteer expressing an interest, we would be very happy indeed!

[If you would like to register a councillor/s to join either or both of these Sounding Boards, please click here](#)

Below are links to the first meetings of the RMTG Sounding Boards that took place in the summer in case these are of interest:

- <https://rsnonline.org.uk/04-08-2022-young-people-in-rural-market-town-areas-sounding-board>
- <https://rsnonline.org.uk/02-08-2022-older-people-in-rural-market-town-areas-sounding-board>

We send out a Market Towns Round Up every second month across our membership. Here is a link to recent distributions. <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. A further one went out the week out last month as it happens and here is the link to that one. <https://mailchi.mp/rsnonline/rural-market-town-group-roundup-december-2022>

We also attach a link to the form of Funding Digest RSN, in whose Grouping RMTG is. We issue this every month <https://mailchi.mp/rsnonline/rsn-rural-funding-digest-october-2022> Again a further one went out last month and here again it is <https://rsnonline.org.uk/rural-funding-digest-december-2022> This has proved very popular with all RSN members. It is important to Towns and the Larger Market Parish Councils as it provides details of funding opportunities and about government consultations..

We very much look forward to working with you all at Torpoint TC . . . Any queries do give me a ring.

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.

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