

National Rural Groups and Rural Housing

A summary of key national rural networks which relate to housing in some way. Text is taken from respective websites.

Rural Housing Alliance

The Rural Housing Alliance, which works in partnership with the Rural Services Network and National Housing Federation, is a group of housing associations that develop and manage affordable homes in rural areas across England. The Alliance aim is to work together to share innovation, good practice and ideas, advocate the need for affordable rural homes and provide a unified voice on key issues. The Rural Housing Alliance meets four times per year, and helps provide a single, clear and collective voice for housing associations' lobbying and influencing on rural housing

Alliance membership: currently stands at 35

Rural Housing Network (formerly the Rural Housing Advisory Group – RHAG)

The Rural Housing Network (RHN) is an independent organisation that represents bodies that work in and for rural communities with an interest in the provision of rural housing of all tenures.

The RHN was originally established by the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) in 2007 as its Rural Housing Advisory Group and became independent in November 2015. It sits alongside other representative rural groups: the Rural Coalition and the Rural Housing Alliance. The aim of the network is to promote the delivery of housing, especially affordable housing, to meet the needs of rural communities, encouraging innovation and new solutions.

Network core membership:

- Action with Communities in Rural England
- Addington Fund
- Campaign to Protect Rural England
- CLT Network
- Countryside Land and Business Association
- Department of Communities and Local Government
- Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
- National Parks England
- Hastoe Housing Group
- Homes and Communities Agency
- Housing Justice (to be invited)
- Local Government Association
- National Association of Local Councils
- National Housing Federation

- National Trust (to be invited)
- Rural Housing Alliance
- Rural Housing Enablers
- Rural Services Network

Rural Coalition

The Rural Coalition, chaired by Margaret Clark CBE, comprises 12 members who subscribe to a vision for a living and working countryside. The policies required to achieve that vision are set out in The Rural Challenge 2015. Bishop Alan Smith, The Rt Rev. the Lord Bishop of St Albans is the President of the Rural Coalition.

Coalition membership:

- Action with Communities in Rural England (ACRE)
- Arthur Rank Centre
- Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE)
- Country Land & Business Association (CLA)
- National Association of Local Councils
- National Farmers Union
- National Housing Federation
- Plunkett Foundation
- Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS)
- Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI)
- Rural Services Network (RSN)
- Town & Country Planning Association (TCPA)

Rural Services Network (RSN)

RSN represents the interests of rural service providers and their rural communities in England. The RSN:

- Makes representations on issues affecting rural services
- Promotes active networking between service providers and across all sectors
- Establishes and broadcasts rural best practice
- Promotes debate and interaction between agencies/sectors across many areas of joint interest for example rural crime, rural housing, broadband provision and rural health

RSN comprises SRARSE Rural, the Rural Assembly, the wider Rural Services Partnership and the RSN Community Group working with Rural England, a stand-alone CIC research group. RSN has a direct partnership with the RHA, providing the secretariat function.

RSN membership:

- 150 rural local authorities
- 100 non local authority service providers (including 20 RHA members)
- A community group comprising around 11,000 organisations (Parish Councils, chambers of trade, schools, etc)

Action with Communities in Rural England (ACRE)

ACRE is the national body for the 38 rural community councils who make up the ACRE Network. ACRE's vision – to be the voice of rural communities – is supported by the wealth of evidence and intelligence on rural matters collected from members. ACRE use this evidence to influence national policy on rural issues, from housing, health and transport to broadband, services and fuel poverty.

ACRE have a strong track record of speaking up for rural communities on the national stage and delivering multi-million pound projects that enable our communities to find innovative solutions to the challenges they face. The Rural Community Councils – many of whom date back 90 years – have a long and fruitful history of making a difference at grassroots level.

ACRE was formed in 1987 to bring them together under one umbrella, harnessing the strength of their experience to support national work.

ACRE membership: 38 Rural Community Councils covering rural England.

Rural England CIC

Rural England exists to bring together rural networks and stakeholders, to improve the rural evidence base, and to help disseminate and debate the findings. It does this in response to a widely perceived deterioration in the rural evidence base, which should not be allowed to happen unchecked. Rural England is a Community Interest Company, which is managed by its team of Directors and whose work programme and outputs are shaped by a Stakeholder Group.

Rural England Stakeholder Group membership:

- ACRE
- Age UK
- Arthur Rank Centre
- Big Lottery Fund
- British Youth Council
- Countryside Alliance
- Calor
- CCRI (University of Gloucestershire)
- CLA
- CPRE
- Child Poverty Action Group
- Farming Community Network
- Federation of Small Businesses (FSB)
- Local Enterprise Partnerships Network
- First Group PLC
- Local Government Information Unit
- Locality
- National Association for AONBs
- National Association of Local Councils
- National Farmers Union

- National Federation of Young Farmers Clubs
- National Trust
- National Federation of Women's Institutes
- National Parks England
- NAVCA
- Plunkett Foundation
- Prince's Countryside Fund
- RICS
- Rural Issues Group of the CAB
- RSN
- TCPA
- UK Youth
- Women in Rural Enterprise
- 5 former commissioners of the Commission for Rural Communities