

From: David Inman
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2023 12:06 PM
To: Trudi Barrett <townclerk@muchwenlock-tc.gov.uk>
Subject: Rural/Market Town Group - Much Wenlock T.C.- Shropshire

Hi Trudi,

Just chasing up on our e mail of 9th of March. We haven't heard back yet from Much Wenlock, who have had trial free membership with us for 6+ months, about whether or not they are happy to continue with us on a subscription basis (£90- 75). We appreciate that some councils are however in the midst of their 4 yearly election cycle and that many may consequently be adopting the logic of waiting to ask the first meeting of their new council. However, for GDPR purposes we must be sure we are not overstaying our welcome! Could we please therefore hear from you by the end of the forthcoming month of May 2023.

Just as a reminder, below are just some of the many services dovetailed for rural towns we deliver through membership:-

- Weekly Bulletin highlighting key rural news and issues direct to your inbox
- Monthly Funding Digest sharing key funds and grants available that may be of interest to you.
- A dedicated Market Town newsletter shared with you 6 times a year.
- Free access to our seminar programme of 8 events a year, online focusing on key topics for rural areas including affordable housing, rural connectivity, rural health and care and rural transport.
- Dedicated meetings (on zoom) for your Councillors and Clerk.

Along with a range of further services.

And our motivation.

The Rural Services Network is the national champion for rural services, and we are one of the only organisations arguing for fairer funding for public services in rural areas. Urban Local authorities receive 38% more per head (£135) in Government Funded Spending Power when compared to rural local authorities. This has an impact on the services that rural local authorities are able to deliver to their local residents, which can have a follow-on impact on town and parish councils and the services that they then provide to their communities. The RSN work through a series of groups including of course the Rural Market Towns Group.

We know that this disparity in funding for rural areas is replicated in terms of health and care services, police and fire funding.

We campaign nationally aiming to influence Parliament and decision makers of the needs of rural communities.

RSN need to show overall we are working with groups totalling 500 + organisations who echo that call for fairer funding and consequently better services for rural areas and rural towns. We need to demonstrate that through strength of argument and the depth of support .

We look forward to hearing from you.

Kindest Regards,
David
David Inman
Director