

From: admin <admin@sparse.gov.uk>
Sent: 29 July 2021 09:48
Subject: Rural/Market Town Group Membership

Dear RMTG Member,

As you will be aware we asked Councils who have been given free trial membership of the Rural/Market Town Group terminating in July 2021 to let us know by the end of this month about your willingness to continue with us as members.

We recognise that although Covid-19 measures are being relaxed councils are cautious and many of you are limiting the number of meetings, whilst seeking the most suitable accommodation for them. We recognise that current council agendas are filling up rapidly and that the current decision making process is more difficult than usual. **Therefore, we at Rural Services Network have decided to help the town and parish councils currently in Rural/Market Town Group membership by extending your free trial period until the end of September 2021. We only ask you to please let us know by the end of September if you wish to be involved with the group in the future.**

This results in:

- Your Council will get a further two months of free membership.
- If you, as we hope, wish to stay involved, you won't get invoiced until October and that subscription will consequently be one of half the usual annual amount (running October 2021 to end of March 2022).
- The full annual subscription is £110 (up to 5,000 population); £130 (5,000 to 10,000 population) or £150 (10,000 + population). It is deliberately intended not to be onerous anyway - so you simply halve that amount for this financial year to work out the amount that you council will be invoiced.
- VAT will be added to the amount charged, but is recoverable by Councils.

We will invoice automatically during the month of October for this amount unless we hear from you that you have specifically decided you no longer wish to be members of the Group.

If you want to find out more about the Rural/Market Town Group, [please visit our website](#). It includes information on all councils currently in membership, which currently includes 232 local councils from across the whole of England. We have targeted work to ensure that national spread, and we will now widen our approach list seeking to achieve involvement we hope from in excess of 400 local councils; having by then given all rural/market towns the opportunity to be involved.

We would also like to take this opportunity to invite you to the **Rural/Market Town Group meeting, which will take place on Tuesday, 12th October 2021**. [Please click here to register](#). We welcome appointed main councillor representatives to the group and clerks (where one is yet to be assigned).

Over the October to April period we will be looking to widen that service through the following services:

- Opening the promised **Member Discussion Site** via Facebook. This group's aim will be to discuss good practice, network and share information about delivering services in rural market towns and Parishes across England.

30.9.21

Agenda item 19a Correspondence Rural Market Town Membership

- Establish liaison arrangements to allow Councils to have greater focus on issues involving **Younger People in Rural Areas**.
- Undertaking work around the topic of **Rural Enterprise**.

If Rural Market Councils are to have an enhanced national profile and work together in the interest of their areas, as seems desirable at this difficult time, this Group clearly represents the opportunity and route to do that. We very much hope your Council will wish to continue with us on that journey.

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 RSN Community Group. The organisation works with Rural England, a stand-alone CIC research group.

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