



NEWS RELEASE

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Cumbria Panel Rural Survey

ACTion with Communities in Cumbria (ACT) is asking rural Cumbrian residents what services are important to them. The brief survey being used will provide a focus for the first discussions of the Cumbria Rural Panel.

ACT's Chief Executive Lorraine Smyth said "The Cumbria Rural Panel is a discussion Forum to address rural issues. Answers from the series of surveys we will conduct over the next year will inform the range of topics discussed within the Panel and guide the work of ACT.

The Rural Panel, which is part funded by Cumbria County Council, will hold four discussions each year and produce guidance to assist communities and agencies to address the issues discussed, so it's really important that these issues are informed by responses to the surveys'.

The first survey ask respondents to pick three services, from a list of eight, that are the most important to rural life and then asks people to identify the one thing that would improve life in rural Cumbria.

Lorraine continued: " We spent time in Urswick, Grange over Sands, Sedbergh, Skelton, Wigton and Brampton last week interviewing people. So far medical services, transport and affordable housing are the top responses. Improvement to public transport is currently the top priority from the 'one thing' responses to date".

The first survey closes at the end of August and the results will be shared at ACT's AGM on the 8th September at Sedbergh People's Hall. The Rural Panel will then investigate the top issue, hold an online and face to face meeting about it and then produce guidance and an informed plan to address the issue, either through action or advocacy.

To answer the survey visit the ACT website: www.cumbriaaction.org.uk and click the link to Have your Say.

<https://cumbria.citizenspace.com/voluntary-and-community-sector/rural-services-survey>

If you are interested in being part of the Rural Panel, contact ACT by phone; 01228 817224 or email daniHUDSON@cumbriaaction.org.uk

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Photo:



Lorraine Smyth interviewing a resident of Brampton for the Rural Panel Survey.
Photo credit: ITV Border.

Further press information available from:

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Notes to Editors:

ACTION with Communities in Cumbria (ACT)

- ACT is the community development organisation and Rural Community Council for Cumbria.
- ACT champions community and rural issues and supports communities to plan for their future, develop projects, work with others, and influence and change policy.
- ACT's work focuses on helping people and communities achieve their aspirations; we provide practical advice and support and deliver training. Through a variety of partnerships we are also able to represent the interests of communities locally, regionally, and nationally.
- ACT is registered in England as Voluntary Action Cumbria, Charity Registration Number 1080875, Company Number 3957858.
- For more information, please visit ACT's website: www.cumbriaaction.org.uk