



**Conservative Party Conference
Countryside Alliance
Fringe Events 2018
#CAFringe**



Do the Conservatives Speak for Rural Britain?

Location: **Birmingham**
Venue: **Andante Room, Hyatt Regency Birmingham**
Date: **Monday 01 October**
Time: **08.15 – 09.30am**
Refreshment: **Breakfast provided**

Rural communities often feel as if they are forgotten by politicians, and a House of Lords inquiry earlier this year confirmed that the Government needs to give greater attention to rural areas when developing and implementing policy. A recent report from the Fabian Society, supported by the Countryside Alliance, highlighted some of the key challenges for people in rural areas and showed that all main political parties need to do more to win the trust of people in rural areas. How are the Conservatives addressing the challenges of rural Britain in government and ensuring 'rural proofing' becomes a reality?

CHAIR: Abi Kay @FGAbiKay

Abi took up the post of Chief Reporter at Farmers Guardian in 2016 after a stint working for the NFU as part of its government affairs team. Prior to that, she spent five years in Parliament as an assistant to a rural MP.

SPEAKER 1: The Rt Hon Michael Gove MP @michaelgove

Michael is MP for Surrey Heath and Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. He entered Parliament in 2005 and served in David Cameron's Shadow Cabinet before going on to become Secretary of State for Education in the Coalition Government. In the last Parliament, he served as Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice and played a leading role in the campaign to leave the European Union. He was appointed Environment Secretary after the 2017 General Election.

SPEAKER 2: Tim Bonner @CA_TimB

Tim is Chief Executive of the Countryside Alliance. He used to farm in the West Country and joined the Countryside Alliance as a press officer in 2002 at the time of the Liberty and Livelihood March which brought 400,000 people to London to protest against the hunting ban. He became Chief Executive in September 2015 and continues to play a leading role in the campaigning work of the Alliance.

SPEAKER 3: The Baroness McIntosh of Pickering @AnneCMcIntosh

Anne is a Conservative Peer. She was elected MEP for North East Essex in 1989 and stood down in 1999, after being elected as MP for Vale of York at the 1997 General Election which became the seat of Thirsk and Malton. She held a number of shadow briefs when the Conservatives were in opposition, including two spells as a Shadow Defra Minister. She was also Chair of the Commons EFRA Committee for five years and is now an active Member of the House of Lords.

SPEAKER 4: Neil Parish MP @neil_parish

Neil is MP for Tiverton and Honiton. He entered Parliament in 2010 and has served as a Member of the Commons EFRA Committee since his election, becoming Chair of the Committee in 2015 following on from Baroness McIntosh. Prior to his election to Parliament, Neil was an MEP for the South West of England from 1999 to 2009 and was Chair of the European Parliament's Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development. He continues to play an active role on his family farm in Somerset.