NATIONAL MEETING 6th – 8th NOVEMBER 2014

Scottish **Rural Parliament**

DRAFT EVENT PROGRAMME

Subject to change.

Wednesday 5th November

Arrival for many participants & public firework display in Oban town centre, 7.30pm.

Thursday 6th November

Time	Activity	Details	Venue
8am	Registrations	The registration desk opens from 8am and closes at 4.30. It re-opens at 5pm at Atlantis Leisure Centre.	CH
	Exhibition open	The exhibition is a celebration of all that is rural with stands from a wide-variety of organisations, both local and national. We have local performers from 10am to entertain us and free tea and coffee all day and some comfy sofas – a good place to refuel!	CH
	First Visits leave	Check out the visits programme to find out about our exciting range of visits to local projects.	CH
10am	Fringe programme starts	Check out the fringe programme to find out about the wide variety of fringe events taking place this morning and afternoon.	CH
12 noon	Lunch (if pre-booked) & exhibition.		CH
12.30pm	Visits to local projects.	Afternoon visits to local projects start leaving.	Bus at CH
5pm	Opening ceremony, dinner, presentations and entertainment including:	Welcome speech - Chair of Scottish Rural Action, the body responsible for organising the Scottish Rural Parliament, John Hutchison, MBE.	ALC Main Hall
		Introduction to the local area and thanks to our dinner sponsor, Argyll & Bute Council – Cllr Roddy McCuish	
		Welcome and thanks to our Sponsor for the event, Caledonian MacBrayne – Martin Dorchester	
		Rural Innovator Awards – presentations from the finalists of the Rural Innovator Awards with illustration by local artist Marri Hedderwick, famous for the Katie Morag stories. Inspiration awaits!	
		European Rural Parliaments: Setting the context – Staffan Bond, Representative of the European Rural Communities Alliance.	
		Scottish Rural Parliament: Our key themes. – Emma Cooper, Scottish Rural Parliament Coordinator	
		Performances by Ballet West, Oban Gaelic Choir, Finlay Wells et al. & Karen Matheson, lead singer of Capercaille! Networking and making merry!	
10.30pm	Bedtime!		

Friday 7ᵗʰ November

Time	Activity	Details	Venue
8.00am	Arrival at Atlantis Leisure Centre	Tea & coffee provided. Seating is not allocated.	ALC
8.30am	Presentations including:	Welcome from Cabinet Minister for Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Food and the Environment, Richard Lochhead MSP	ALC
		Carol Craig, CEO, Centre for Community Confidence and Wellbeing – Local decision-making and community confidence.	
		Anneli Kana, Estonian Rural Parliament – Impact of Rural Parliaments on communities in Estonia	
9.45am	Break	Please ensure you arrive for a prompt start to your workshop. Tea and coffee for on the move!	
10.15am	Workshops on key themes – identifying our key recommendations for change	See the Friday workshops planner for information on all of the key theme workshops.	To be allocated on arrival
11.15am	Break	Please ensure you arrive for a prompt start to your next workshop.	
11.45am	Workshops on key themes – identifying our key recommendations for change	All workshops to be repeated.	
12.45	Lunch & exhibition	Served at Corran Halls, a simple lunch using local produce where available. An opportunity to view the exhibition.	CH
2.15pm	Open Space introduction: a dynamic approach to organising our afternoon.	Any participant can propose an agenda item and others can choose to join them in discussing their item. This provides an opportunity for more detailed consideration of the key themes or extending any element of the morning's discussion. Likeminded people will join you in examining your concern or challenges or just having a good blether! We recommend that people consider agenda items for discussion before attending as well as during the morning's session. These can be on any topic which impacts on those living or working in rural areas.	ALC
3.15pm	Open Space, meeting session 1	Your chance to meet and discuss the topics	ALC
4.05pm	Break	Tea, coffee and home baking	ALC
4.20 pm	Open Space, meeting session 2	Your chance to meet and discuss the topics	ALC
4.20 pm	Alternate session until 6pm	Participate in presentations and discussion on "Rural communities in a European context: What happens across the EU and how to influence EU policy."	ALC

5.10pm	Open Space summary	Reporting back from the Open Space sessions.	ALC
6.00pm	Open Space finishes!		ALC
7.30pm for 8pm	Dinner and celebrations!	Arrive at Argyllshire Gathering for dinner, drinks, speeches and dancing. There will be a temporary taxi rank for the night outside the venue. Dinner speakers include: Our sponsor, Caledonian MacBrayne Mark Steven, presenter of BBC Radio Scotland's Saturday morning outdoors show Out of Doors. We announce the winner of the Rural Innovators Awards. Angela Dunbar, CalMac Culture Finalist will be performing, and Skipinnish will be performing a ceilidh – bring your instrument to take part! Horo Gheallaidh!	AG
12.30am	Bedtime!		AG

Saturday 8th November

9.00am	Arrival	Mugs of tea and coffee to help us all cope with any excesses from the night before.	ALC
9.30am	Strengthening local democracy - a cross-cutting theme raised in local meetings	Presentation from David O'Neill, President of COSLA and the Chair of the Commission on Strengthening Local Democracy on their report to Scottish Government Opportunity for questions.	ALC
10.30am	Workshop on the future and governance of the Scottish Rural Parliament	Presenting the options for the future of the Rural Parliament.	ALC
12noon	Presentation from Peter Peacock	Peter Peacock – an analysis of all of the workshops and open space sessions, identifying how our collective priorities can be achieved.	ALC
1pm	Plenary session including presentation of the Scottish Rural Parliaments report to	Handover of Scottish Rural Parliament 2014 findings and report (draft!) to the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning and local MSP, Michael Russell.	ALC
2pm	Home time!	We hope all participants have a safe and pleasant journey home.	ALC