



Scottish Rural Parliament

NEWSLETTER- DECEMBER 2015

Scottish Rural Parliament 2016 Location Announcement

We are excited to announce that the second Scottish Rural Parliament will take place in Brechin, Angus on 6-8th October 2016 at the new community campus.

We had an incredible 20 applications from communities to host the Scottish Rural Parliament in 2016 from locations as diverse as Wick, Dumfries and East Lothian.

Please note that we will not be taking bookings for the event until next year, but do put the date in your diary! You can read our press release here:

<http://www.scottishruralparliament.org.uk/srp16-location-announcement/>



Scottish Rural Summit 2015

Our first Scottish Rural Summit brought together people from the public and third sectors to explore the Action Plan which arose from the Scottish Rural Parliament in 2014.



The event held at The Brunton in Musselburgh on 24 November was attended by over 100 people including First Minister Nicola Sturgeon and Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs Richard Lochhead.

The First Minister praised the 'major success' of the first Rural Parliament and highlighted some of Scottish Rural Action's successes since then, particularly in regards to broadband. She said that the Scottish Government broadly agrees with the five asks that were made by the Rural Parliament in 2014 and that they expect all public sector bodies to 'play their part in meeting our shared aims for rural

communities'. We expect more details on this soon.

You can see our short report here: <http://www.scottishruralparliament.org.uk/scottish-rural-summit-2015/> A film will be coming soon from our co-organisers, the Scottish Rural Network.

Scottish Rural Parliament, Moat Centre, Stuart Street, Rothesay, Isle of Bute, PA20 0EP

Email: info@scottishruralparliament.org.uk Tel: 01700 500177

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European Rural Parliament 2015



The European Rural Parliament met last month in Schärding in Austria. This second meeting, unlike the first which was a single-day affair, was much like our Scottish Rural Parliament. Three-days of project visits, networking, workshops and of course, great food, drink and entertainment representing the best of rural produce and culture. The aim was to produce a manifesto which could be 'used to influence European institutions and national and regional governments in their attitudes to, and policies for, rural communities.'

Read more of our report here:

<http://www.scottishruralparliament.org.uk/erp2015/>

Co-Chairs Appointed

Scottish Rural Action have re-appointed John Hutchison and appointed Amanda Burgauer as Co-Chairs of the organisation. Directors sought a co-chair model in order to share the workloads and to better be able to represent the diversity of rural Scotland, with their time in role overlapping.

John Hutchison said "Moving to shared responsibility through Co-Chairs gives the further advantage of allowing better continuity as these post-holders change. Amanda, with her background, experience and strong roots in the community makes an ideal appointment".

Read our press release here: <http://www.scottishruralparliament.org.uk/sra-elects-co-chairs/>



Debate on Community Councils

We are interested in hearing the views of both Community Councillors and Non-Community Councillors on the subject of Community Councils. We held a Twitter #ruralhour discussion on this topic, which you can access here: <https://storify.com/ScotRuralParl/community-councils-ruralhour>

If you didn't manage to take part, let us know your views here: <https://www.surveymoneky.com/r/SBDF88H>

#ruralhour

Our last #ruralhour was on the achievements and issues in the food and drink sector in rural Scotland. To see previous #ruralhour discussions visit: <https://storify.com/ScotRuralParl>

We also have another #ruralhour date for your diaries:

- 19th January, 9-10pm- Climate Change

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Rural Innovators Award 2015-16

Last week four nominated projects were put forward for the public vote to win the Rural Innovators Award for Transport and Infrastructure. We are pleased to announce that the winner was Mull and Iona Sustainable Transport (MIST).

On winning the Award Sustainable Transport Officer, Rebecca Lewis said "MIST project would like to thank the Mull and Iona community for their tremendous enthusiasm and support, enabling this project to race towards achieving its aims. Funding from CCF and support from Mull and Iona Community Trust has allowed us to continue towards and explore options for a sustainable transport network on our beautiful Islands"



This month we are focussing on innovative projects in the food and drink industry to celebrate the end of the year of food and drink. Find more details and our terms and conditions on our website:

<http://www.scottishruralparliament.org.uk/get-involved/ria-2015-16/>

We are also currently accepting nominations for rural innovative projects in the community council (closing end of April) and young person (closing end of Feb) categories. If you know of a fantastic project under one of these categories then we would love to know about it.

Other Events

Emma Cooper, National Coordinator spoke at the SNP conference on 16th October, as part of the fringe event regarding broadband and mobile phone signal with Citizens Advice Scotland. She also recently spoke at the Cairngorms LEADER launch and the Cross Party Group on Digital participation.



On the 6th October Rebecca Dawes spoke at the Rural Cross Party Group meeting on the topic Empowering Young Decision Makers representing the Scottish Rural Parliament as a director and Scottish Association of Young Farmers Clubs.

We will be at The Gathering on the 17th and 18th February 2015 at stand 106 along with Scottish Association of Young Farmers Clubs. Come and see us!

Details regarding regional Rural Parliament events will be coming soon!

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Current Consultations

A new regular section in our newsletter with information about relevant consultations coming up. If you want us to promote your survey or consultation please email fran@scottishruralparliament.org.uk

Fairer Scotland Consultation- Closes 23rd December 2015

The aim of this consultation is to seek the views of interested stakeholders on plans for more power and protection for Scotland's Islands. These views will help shape the development of a Future Islands Bill that will allow the islands to build a more prosperous and fairer future for their communities. In particular the consultation will seek views on:

- Island proofing
- Empowering island communities
- National islands plan
- Statutory protection for the Na h-Eileanan an Iar Scottish Parliamentary constituency boundary
- Local Government Electoral Wards



Views can be submitted to: <https://consult.scotland.gov.uk/islands-team/islands-bill-consultation>

Scotland's Rail Freight Strategy- Closes 22nd January 2016

Focusses on opportunities and actions for growth in new and existing rail freight markets and emphasises on the need for the rail freight industry: <https://consult.scotland.gov.uk/transport-scotland/rail-freight-strategy>

Land Use Strategy Scotland 2016-2021- Closes 29th January 2016

The strategy focusses on the policies, proposals and priority activities for the next 5 years based on the main themes of policy context, informed decision making and applying the principles. <https://consult.scotland.gov.uk/land-use-and-biodiversity/land-use-strategy-for-scotland>



Impact the EU has on lives of people in Scotland- No deadline stated European and External Relations Committee is calling on people living in Scotland to submit short testimonies either in written or video format on the impact EU has on their lives: <https://www.scottish.parliament.uk/gettinginvolved/91225.aspx>

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from all of us at Scottish Rural Action!

Please note that the office will be closed for Christmas from 23rd December until 5th January 2016.

