



Stranraer, Dumfries & Galloway

Taking Action

14-16 November 2018

Dress code: Casual please!

Wednesday 14th November

09:00 Registration opens (until 19:00)

Ryan Centre

Visits to inspiring projects in Dumfries and Galloway including:

Whithorn Timescape Roundhouse and The Book Shop, Wigtown (09:30 – 16:00)

Mull of Galloway Experience and Logan Botanic Gardens (10:00 – 15:45)

Portpatrick and Crafty Gin Distillery (13:10 – 17:00)

Town Tour of Stranraer (13:30 – 15:00)

12:30 Lunch and exhibition:

Games Hall

You are invited to lunch and to meet our exhibitors until 13:30.

13:00 Fringe programme – A diverse series of workshops, discussions and presentations hosted by participants in the event. Full programme available at the event. Includes:

13:00 – 15:35

Film programme

Auditorium

Drop in any-time for a rolling programme of short and longer films on rural Scotland, rural development and anything else we found interesting! Full programme available on the day.

Climate Change Centre

GP Room

with Gill Hay

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Drop-in at any time, exploring what Climate Change will mean for rural Scotland and what we need to do to address and reduce the impacts. We will submit the resulting statement to the Rural Parliament on Thursday afternoon as an addition to the Manifesto for rural Scotland.

13:10 – 14:10

The challenges of supporting the long-term resettling of refugee families in rural areas
with Carolyn Yates

F23, College

In recent years the Scottish Government has welcomed refugees to both urban and rural areas. However, in rural areas we face not only the same challenges for any resettling families anywhere, but the added complexity of the difficulties rural communities themselves face in modern Scotland. How can we encourage families to invest in their future in rural Scotland when urban areas offer them so much more in terms of cultural diversity in schools and communities, opportunities to integrate and better infrastructure, such as broadband speed, transport and access to further and higher education? This is an open discussion to share experiences and ideas.

Brainstorming Rural Barriers
with DG Voice

F22, College

DG Voice, the representative organisation of disabled people in Dumfries and Galloway, invite participants to discuss barriers faced to life in our beautiful area and in particular, those faced by disabled people. In this interactive workshop we will raise awareness of the problems and look for potential solutions. Dumfries and Galloway has an ageing population and one in five people are disabled so issues such as transport, connectivity and isolation are of particular relevance.

Keep Scotland the Brand
with campaign founder, Ruth Watson

G31, College

Find out more about why Scotland's name is good for business, from Scotch Beef to the Arbroath Smokie, Tourism to Tatties. A short introduction to the #KeepScotlandtheBrand campaign followed by a facilitated discussion. Observations, ideas, different perspectives welcomed.

13:30 – 15:30

A Celebration of 25 Years of Scottish LEADER
with Peter Ross, Chair of LEADER Chairs

Stranraer Library

A facilitated discussion with the Local action Group Chairs about past successes and suggestions for the future open to all.

Transforming Wigtownshire
with Wigtownshire Health and Social Care

G34a, College

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Short presentation, followed by round table, facilitated discussion, following on from work already carried out at other public events.

GPs - how to get them and how to keep them

F21, College

with Scottish Rural Medicine Collaborative and NHS Scotland

Find out how you can be involved in recruiting and keeping GPs for rural Scotland.

Brexit: What does it mean for the rural third sector in Scotland?

Burns House

with Third Sector Dumfries & Galloway

Deal or no deal, Brexit WILL have an impact on the third sector! Take your opportunity to raise points, ask questions and listen to others' views. TSD&G will ensure that a summary of the issues raised at the event is put to the Secretary of State for Scotland and the First Minister.

14:30 – 15:30

Rural Engagement Service (Connecting People and Places)

G46, College

with Auchinleck Community Development Initiative

Development, Delivery and Evaluation of a Rural Engagement Programme operating within the rural communities of Auchinleck, Muirkirk, Logan and Catrine of East Ayrshire.

Auchinleck Community Development Initiative (ACDI) is approaching the end of the Support to Engage Programme (STEP) delivery provision. As part of ACDI's continual review and delivery process, Community Enterprise were commissioned to assess STEP by gathering internal data and reflecting on previous research (look back), facilitate thinking about where STEP is now (current situation) and, more importantly, undertake some horizon planning (looking forward) to help ACDI plan a new and different programme that is about combating social isolation within rural areas and building social capital and connections by using existing community assets to create a more vibrant place.

A key factor of the CE review and assessment was that from its origin, STEP was rooted historically in a need to engage and refer people to appropriate support that was relevant to their needs and aspirations. However, it also became clear that the dynamics of both STEP as a provision and ACDI as a Community Anchor Organisation had evolved into something much more effective and powerful.

A National Park for Galloway

F22, College

with Galloway National Park Association

Recent reviews of National Parks in Wales and England have reaffirmed the value of National Parks to high quality rural environments and the communities that live there. In this workshop we will share the experiences of the Galloway National Park Association in its work to date to achieve National Park status for the Kingdom of Galloway.

Sustainable Development and Land Reform - getting the land you want for the things you need.

G31, College

with Scottish Government

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This workshop is to get communities thinking about how they could make use of land for sustainable development, and the ways they could get the land they need to do that. Scottish Government is making regulations for a new right to buy for sustainable development and we want to hear ideas from Scotland's rural communities about how they could make use of land for sustainable development. We especially want to hear from young people seeking sustainable futures in rural areas.

Safer communities, More jobs
with the A77 Action Group

F23, College

To allow discussion about the challenges faced by the commuters using the A77 road.

16:00 – 17:00

Remote Control
with Performance Collective Stranraer

Auditorium

Performance Collective Stranraer takes you to a small town in remote and rural part of Scotland and shows you what it's like as we attempt to grow into adulthood. Our show is about theories of evolution, parking violations and that look you get in a local pub when you walk in... and you're clearly not from there. Remote Control was shown at the National Theatre of Scotland's Exchange Festival in Inverness and is written by the company with Drew Taylor. PCS is funded by The Holywood Trust, The Barfil Trust and DGU.

17:00 Dinner: attend any time between 17:00 and 18:00 for an informal dinner. **Games Hall**
Closes 18:30.

18:30 Opening Ceremony: **Auditorium**

Amanda Burgauer, Chair of Scottish Rural Action - Welcome

Emma Cooper, Chief Executive of Scottish Rural Action – Progress since 2014

Mairi Gougeon, Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment – Keynote speech

Professor Russel Griggs – Sponsors address

Rural Innovators Award presentations

20:00 Drinks reception

Emily Davies, Scottish Youth Parliament – Welcome to Stranraer, Dumfries & Galloway

Entertainment with Robyn Stapleton, BBC Radio Scotland's Young Traditional Musician 2014, and Aaron Jones

Canapes and drinks provided by Dumfries & Galloway College hospitality students

21:00 Close

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Thursday 15th November

- 09:00 Registration and exhibition opens **Ryan Centre**
- 09:30 Our Position Statement on Brexit: Examining our shared position on post-Brexit rural policy. These workshops will develop the content of our draft statement – available in participant packs – for agreement at the plenary later today. Choose from:
- Things we need from Westminster (UK Government) post-Brexit** **Movement Room**
- Commitment to work with the devolved administrations and particularly Scotland, regarding the transition from EU membership, inward migration and a commitment to rural people, places and enterprise in Scotland that includes sufficient funding.
- Improving Politics and giving clarity post-Brexit** **North West Castle Hotel**
- Strong government and political leadership that gives clarity to rural communities and supports the celebration of cultural diversity and community cohesion and addresses the current negative tone of political rhetoric.
- Support and funding for rural communities post-Brexit** **G31, College**
- Commitment to equitable ring-fenced funding for rural communities: ringfenced, place-based and taking need into account.
- The rural economy and addressing poverty and hardship in rural Scotland** **GP Room**
- There must be a recognition of the value and diversity of the rural economy, but also of the widespread poverty and hardship that exists, as well as the labour shortage that will exist if EU migrants are not encouraged to stay.
- An independent voice for rural Scotland** **Green Room**
- An independent mechanism is essential to enable the voice of rural Scotland to be heard at the right level and in the right places to influence national policy for Scotland post-Brexit. Scottish Rural Action is emerging as this voice and requires appropriate resourcing and support to develop.
- 10:50 Post-Brexit rural policy – discussion panel **Auditorium**
with Colin Smyth MSP, Scottish Labour, Shadow Cabinet Secretary for Rural Economy, Connectivity and Transport; Edward Mountain MSP, Scottish Conservative, Convenor of the Scottish Parliament Rural Economy, Connectivity and Transport Committee; Amanda Burgauer, Scottish Rural Action; Chaired by Ruth Wishart
- 12:10 Lunch and exhibition **Games Hall**
including launch of new research on the Rural Gender Pay Gap by SRUC and Scottish Government

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13:30 Workshops – examining key aspects of rural policy. Choose from the following options:

13:30 – 15:50

Radically rethinking rural democracy
with Scottish Rural Action

GP room

Think creatively and join our conversation about how to reshape rural democracy. This is a grassroots workshop to shape our response to the Local Democracy Bill in 2019.

13:30 – 14:30

Rural services: Equality of access
with DG Voice, Rural Mental Health Forum and Outside the Box

F21, College

Examining how we can ensure that all essential rural services – including those provided by the private sector such as banking and broadband – are inclusive now and in the future.

Social care: Delivering for rural Scotland
with Scottish Islands Federation and GrowBiz

Burns House

Our older population is growing and we are already struggling to meet needs in rural communities. This session looks at some inspiring projects addressing needs and asks how we can ensure everyone gets the care they need.

Transport: What does the future hold?
with Scottish Rural Action

Movement Room

A look at transport innovations and how we ensure that rural communities aren't left behind – literally. This workshop will feed into the development of the National Transport Strategy for Scotland.

Rural homelessness
with Rural Housing Scotland and Scottish Rural Action

Green Room

Rural homelessness can be a hidden issue, with people migrating to the cities due to a lack of affordable and suitable housing. Join our campaign to tackle rural homelessness taking place throughout December 2018.

Democracy Matters
with Scottish Rural Action

Café

Feeding into the Local Governance Review and 2019 Local Democracy Bill, this workshop examines questions relating to local democracy – what do you think of current local decision-making practices and what defines 'local' for you?

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What is place-based rural policy, and what evidence base does it need?

North West Castle Hotel

with the James Hutton Institute and Scotland's Rural College

Think about the town, village or rural place where you live, and the issues which matter there. Can you find the data to measure them? Join our discussion of what 'true' place-based policy means for rural Scotland and help us collect information on the evidence base it needs.

Rural Scotland: Planning for 2050

G31, College

with the Scottish Government's National Planning team – meet the professionals in person

Work to refresh Scotland's National Planning Framework including the Scottish Planning Policy will commence next year – this is an early opportunity to help to influence and inform this process.

What is your experience of planning in your area? Does it help or hinder your rural community? How relevant is your local development plan to the places where you live and work? What can planning do best support your local community or your business? This session provides a chance to share your ideas about how planning can best support rural Scotland into the future.

14:50-15:50

Maintaining Links with Europe

Harbour Masters Office

with UK and Ireland Rural Communities Network

Maintaining Links with Europe

This workshop is part of a European Rural Parliament project considering Rural Advocacy, Opinions and Development (ROAD). The findings will feed into a wider piece of work being carried out across the UK and Ireland between now and the end of February. A final report will be presented at the European Rural Parliament gathering in Spain in November 2019. We will consider: Why is it important to maintain links with Europe? What kind of links do we need to maintain? How can we do that, and who needs to do it? We will examine these questions with representatives from the newly formed UK and Ireland Rural Network.

All other workshops are repeats of 13:30-14:30 workshops.

16:10 Member's motions and SRA election candidate introductions **Auditorium**

16:50 Agreeing our view on post-Brexit rural policy. **Auditorium**

17:30 Close

19:00 Dinner and ceilidh **North West Castle Hotel**

Optional three-course meal and ceilidh at the North West Castle Hotel, Stranraer. Pre-booked guests only. You can check if you are booked to attend at the Rural Parliament registration desk.

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with Graham Taylor, Crafty Distillery, and local band Life O'Reilly. Hosts Peter Ross, Stranraer Liaison Group, and Rebecca Dawes, Scottish Rural Action.

Friday 16th November

08:30 Early morning walk! Meet Peter Ross, Chair of Dumfries & Galloway LEADER, at the Castle of St John (8 Castle Street, DG9 7RT), for a leisure walk from sea to trees to townscape. Finishes at the Ryan Centre approximately 9.30am.

08:45 Registration **Ryan Centre**

09:00 Fringe programme, all at the Ryan Centre. Choose from:

Rural gender pay-gap

with SRUC and Scottish Government

Movement Room

Following the launch of the report into the rural gender pay-gap released on Thursday at the Rural Parliament, this is an opportunity to ask questions about the report and share your views on how the pay-gap could be addressed.

Digital Scotland: R100 update

with Digital Scotland

Auditorium

An update on the R100 superfast broadband programme.

General Practice in Rural Communities: The 2018 GP Contract

with the Scottish Government Primary Care Team

GP Room

New GP Contracts offer a transformation of Primary Care services in Scotland that encourage GPs to spend more time with patients. Come and hear about how this will work in Scotland's rural communities, and the unique role rural GPs serve and the challenges they face.

Self-Portraits

with Women in the Highlands

Café

Workshop attendees will help create part of an ongoing art project. This project began at Belladrum Tartan Heart Festival and comprises of self-portraits done on mini-canvases in colours which were used by the Suffrage movement. The aim is to eventually have a mosaic about identity.

Young returners: Learning from Uist

with CoDeL

Green Room

CoDeL's study of young people on Uist shows a trend of young economically active islanders returning or staying, and young people new to Uist settling on the islands. Just as significant,

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many of these young people have children. And at least 1 in 10 of these young people have set up their own businesses.

As a result Uist communities are noticing a new dynamism and optimism, and it is possible that population decline on Uist is finally bottoming out. If this is happening in Uist, is it happening elsewhere? If so, what are the reasons.....

10:00 Workshops – a range of practical and discussion workshops on the theme of ‘Taking Action’. Choose from:

It’s all about who you know *This workshop takes place at 10am ONLY* **Auditorium**
with Scottish Rural Action

With Alister Jack MP, Emma Harper MSP and Ros Surtees, Councillor. An opportunity to speak to officials in different roles at different levels of local and national government about their roles and how best to forge a relationship with them.

Community Shares **North West Castle Hotel (Edinburgh room)**
with Development Trusts Association Scotland

From harbours to heritage, energy to education, find out how community shares can be used to fund "What Matters" to your community.

Asset transfer: Viability not liability! **GP Room**
with Community Ownership Support Service

Considering an asset transfer? From assessing need to filling out the asset transfer form, establishing a group to working out how to pay the bills, this practical workshop will introduce all aspects of taking ownership of an asset and outline the support available to help you take the first step.

Intro to social media **Burns House**
with Jane Craigie Marketing

Struggling to make heads or tails out of hashtags and trends and always wondered what vlogging is? This is a beginner’s guide to social media and why its important (trust us, it is!).

Engaging young people **Movement Room**
with the Scottish Youth Parliament, Police Scotland Youth Volunteers and Rural Youth Project

Ensuring young people are engaged with your organisation at all levels can be a challenge. Here are some top tips from young people themselves.

Putting community-led creativity on the map **Stranraer Library (Activity Room)**
with Voluntary Arts Scotland

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Community-led arts and culture events are an opportunity to build community cohesion, overcome barriers, explore ideas and celebrate. Join Voluntary Arts Scotland to hear how they can help showcase and support your creative group or project and connect with other people in the room to share ideas, contacts and useful resources.

A community banking hub? **North West Castle Hotel (Prince Phillip room)**
with Development Trusts Association Scotland and Community Junction.

A discussion about the possibility of a community banking hub and some ideas about how it might be achieved.

Running a campaign **Green Room**
with Scottish Rural Action and Robin McAlpine

An introduction to campaigning on issues important to you and your community and a toolkit to help which is free to take home.

11:15 Workshops – repeated from above, except for ‘It’s all about who you know’.

12:15 Lunch **Games Hall**

13:00 Closing ceremony: **Auditorium**

Mr Michael Russell, Cabinet Secretary for Government Business and Constitutional Relations –
Keynote speech

Cllr Elaine Murray, Leader of Dumfries & Galloway Council – Sponsors address

13:45 Scottish Rural Action Annual General Meeting **Auditorium**

14.30 Free bus leaves! **Ryan Centre**

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