



SCOTTISH RURAL PARLIAMENT 2016 BOOK OF PROCEEDINGS

Compiled by Connecting Scotland

DESCRIPTION

'What ideas, questions or opportunities do I care to explore now, that will inspire and strengthen our communities and/or the Rural Parliament?'

A summary of Open Space conversations.

The conversations were called..



People choose...



Learning and sharing happened...



Scottish Rural Parliament 2016

Open Space Summary

Conversation name: Annual Ground Rent: A sustainable source of public funds

Contact name and details: Graeme McCormick

Who came:

Geoff Hobsin; Gavin Clark

Key insights:

Charging a rent on every single metre of land makes more money than existing taxes which could all be replaced with AGR

Huge tax savings for joe and jean public

The burden of paying a rent on land will force land owners who can't make the land economic to give it up.

Questions:

Political will to do it and take on..(*word missing*)

Can community buy-outs continue?

Will local authorities have to steward their land better?

Any actions/next steps

Put on agenda for all local groups;

The cost of initiatives can't be ignored. The public purse will be seriously affected unless we identify a secure source of funding

Scottish Rural Parliament 2016

Open Space Summary

Conversation name: How do we assess success in rural community resilience?

Contact name and details: Mags Currie, Margaret.currie@hutton.ac.uk

Who came:

Jane Macaulay; Lorne Murray; Sheena Body; Jane Donaldson, Bruce Patterson, Jane Bekker, Fiona McKee

Key insights:

How does success breed success?

Successful resilient actions breed's community cohesion and more success

Community resilience is not an outcome in itself, it is a process and series of long-term positive actions

Needs initial facilitators and resilient actions but also needs others to come in and take over eventually.

Questions:

How does success breed success?

What is the definition of community?

Any actions/next steps:

Community needs not to be reliant on key people – pulling other members

Needs to be more understanding of the knock-on effects of an initial resilient actions building cohesion through a set-back

Opening up doors to understand how good – a culture of intergenerational communications.

Scottish Rural Parliament 2016

Open Space Summary

Conversation name: How to ensure all the mix of services and life are kept in communities and not centralised (even within large local areas)

Contact name and details: Theona Morrison

Who else was there?

Theona Morrison, Jane Bryan-Jones, Kirsty McColl, Paul Melling, Anne Simpson, Moira Robertson, Dick Robertson, Tim Stobart, June Hay, Alison Macleod, Alex Stoabrt

Key insights:

Positive community impact driven by local people.

Any change in service has a full impact assessment (not just engagement) with community feedback

Community actions plans

Questions:

Any actions/next steps:

Holistic pro-active approach positive community impact and planning, driven by local people, that leads to decision making by all decision makers across all sectors, particularly service provision.

Scottish Rural Parliament 2016

Open Space Summary

Conversation name: Equal access to supports and services for people with disabilities in rural areas

Contact name and details: Duncan F MacGillivray

Inspiredbyautism2013@gmail.com

Who else was there?

Kathy Anderson

Duncan McGillivray

Key insights:

- Disability, generally, needs to be on the agenda
- Distribution between physical and cognitive
- Across all services/facilities/housing/benefits/transport/education

Questions:

How do we ensure people with learning/cognitive are heard?

Any actions/next steps:

Rural L/A's should offer access to appropriate facilities for children with additional support needs/learning disabilities and not assume that in every situation mainstream facilities can be adapted.

In a general/overarching sense all services – health/housing/transport/education - must acknowledge the diversity of needs, particularly in rural or isolated parts of Scotland

Scottish Rural Parliament 2016

Open Space Summary

Conversation name: Food of quality needs to be accessed by old and young for health economy reasons

Contact name and details: Anne Thomson - info@bouvrange.com

Who else came?

Ian Bailey; Bettina Blanke; Marion Robson; Richard Briggs; Ruth MacDonald; Neil Clapperton; Magdalena

Key insights:

Same quality of food for councillors, MPs, MSPs, Doctors, as school children

Commission on the use of food not utilised in the country/town

Start food co-op that connects producers and consumers across Scotland

Scotland to have own PGI/provenance scheme based on legislation

Questions:

Problem of local produce suppliers?

Problem of amazon generation?

Lack of transport to access good food sources

Any actions/next steps:

These points are actions. The discussion covered supermarkets lack of responsibility for our food system, stupendous scale of issue which not many appreciate.

Scottish Rural Parliament 2016

Open Space Summary

Conversation name: What support/encouragements do micro businesses need to support and flourish?

Contact name and details: Sheena Boyd

Who else was there?

Margaret Crombie; Kirsty McColl, Anne, Chris Paterson, Sarah Maclean, Charlotte Fleming, Ruth McDonald, Jane

Key insights:

Start-up and ad hoc mentoring

Business-led not agency-led

Recognise additional pressures on much micro business funding – distance to market is a large disadvantage

Online training – webinars/podcasts

Community Value – a business in a rural community has a relatively value

Questions:

Peer support – more appropriate than official support?

Access to grant funding to effect..(*wording not clear*)?

Why do we have to scale or export?

Any actions/next steps:

Review the role of support agencies e.g. business gateway

This needs to be funded even if we do it ourselves

Community initiatives re:mentoring

Look at supporting micro businesses more equally e.g. urban and also social enterprise organisations. Micro businesses contribute to the social fabric of a community

Scottish Rural Parliament 2016

Open Space Summary

Conversation name: Should Scotland have more National Parks?

Contact name and details: Lee Haxton

leehaxton@cairngorms.co.uk

Who else was there?

Becky Shaw, Liz Brooks, Dougie, Kelly, Magdalena, Andy

Key insights:

Divisive issue – Visitors of investment v planning constraints

Why National Parks and not another designation? Get the benefits without the designation.

Need to explore marine national parks

What should a national park be about?

Questions:

What are the benefits of National Parks?

What are the planning implications?

How relevant and useful are the aims?

Any actions/next steps:

Public conversations about what National Parks should do/be about.

Which other parts of Scotland have the infrastructure to support National Parks – study required.

How can we prevent National Parks from becoming retirement home's?

Need to share the benefits of existing National Parks across the communities involved.

Scottish Rural Parliament 2016

Open Space Summary

Conversation name: Understanding and developing participatory democracy as an approach

Contact name and details: Kelly McBride – Democratic Society

kelly@demsoc.org

Who else was there?

Crichton Caribou Centre; Scottish Community Alliance; Scottish Natural Heritage; Interested citizens; Cairngorm national park.

Key insights:

Rural movement needs to come from the grassroots with existing groups connected together. There's a lot of organisations represented here, how do we involve more individuals living in rural areas? Who's being represented?

Rural parliament involvement in Decentralisation bill and Islands Bill.

Need to clarify the purpose and role of community councils. Big discrepancy between their effectiveness in different areas.

Role of digital technology – alignment of online and offline processes

Questions:

How does participatory democracy work alongside representative democracy?

What level should participation happen at (local, neighbourhood, national)?

What do we mean by participation and democracy?

Any actions/next steps:

Clarify what is meant by participatory democracy in draft manifesto

Space to learn about different participatory tools/methods – maybe test them at next Rural Parliament event

Scottish Rural Parliament 2016

Open Space Summary

Conversation name: What does place based policy look like in a rural context?

Contact name and details: Jane Atterton - jane.atterton@sruc.co.uk

Who else was there?

Alistair Prior, Patricia Melo, Becky Shaw, Sheila Winstone, Lorna Murray, Niall Smith, Graham Hewitson, Sue Walker

Key insights:

Traditional separation of spatial and social planning

How to ensure local community voices heard, especially by local authorities

Varying approaches to implementation – more relevant than legislative context – and importance of local context and local politics

Varying meanings of place based – some never heard, didn't understand it, some actually doing it without realising

Questions:

Can we have a rural SIMD?

Can we learn from land-use planning?

How should we engage everyone? Different assessments of well performing? Well-being?

Any actions/next steps:

SRUC/JHI – continue with place based policy and research and more findings accessibly and widely!!

Scottish Rural Parliament 2016

Open Space Summary

Conversation name: Rural public transport. Community Transport.

Contact name and details: June Hay

junehay@glenkenst.co.uk

Who else was there?

Janey Moxley; David Torlick; Terry Heggarty; Tim Stobbart ; Matthew Pumphrey

Key insights:

Need subsidy/funding for driver training.

Constraint on vehicle size on standard licence is a problem.

Need co-ordinate to make services more efficient on demand responsive community services

Integrating bus and rail – co-location of bus and rail stations and better....

Services can provide a community care function but this isn't recognised. There is no training.

Having to pay for PVGs for drivers. Drivers serve the whole community not just vulnerable groups.

Buses through scenic areas – buses with better windows to see views.

Questions:

How are essential subsidised services designated?

Are there restrictions on community transport competing with commercial services? (SPT seems to think so, but other regions not).

Any actions/next steps:

Need Scottish Association for community transport to share learning and lobby

Need to simplify PVG system for drivers, should be free in all cases.

Integration of bus and train stations needed.

Scottish Rural Parliament 2016

Open Space Summary

Conversation name: From a crofting perspective. How do schools engage with local communities?

Contact name and details: g prodway@soilassociation.org

Who else was there?

Richard Briggs; Sheena Howden; Lorraine Macrae; Brian Wood

Key insights:

We are in a community campus – feel welcome. Costs of hire can be prohibitive.

Skills development needs to be prioritised in schools.

Questions:

How do we make links to the community?

Should we change the name to Rural connections?

Any actions/next steps:

Scottish Rural Parliament 2016

Open Space Summary

Conversation name: ARSE (Arts, Rural Scotland and Energy)

Contact name and details: Anne Packard

Who else was there?

Brian Wood, Board Member, Cairngorms National Park; Sarah Maclean from Barra; Charlotte Fleming, Angus Choral Society, Pip Tabar, Southern Upland Partnership; Sula Brookes, Young Innovations Award

Key insights:

Sustain and improve the extent and valuing of arts, culture, creativity in the curriculum and from cradle-to-grave.

Arts and culture must be integrated and not siloed

Research and quantify arts/culture value in preventative spend and actual spend noting the HIE differences

Need for recognition and encouragement of cultural leadership and cultural entrepreneurship

Questions:

How best to recruit and sustain participants esp, young people and interest in classical music?

Who brings the artists together with other businesses to look for added value to have in the mix?

How do we best harness arts and culture to support and promote tourism? How do we best and who should develop inter-regional links and connections?

Any actions/next steps:

Manifesto needs redrawn with reference to workshop on 6th Oct led by Jo McKean

Mapping of networks existing on an elite-less basis (all creativity matters) with a view to establishing a single map/network for cohesion/coherence mainland/island wide

Urgently set up review group re inadequate manifesto for arts and culture

Scottish Rural Parliament 2016

Open Space Summary

Conversation name: What can we do more to promote tourism to you?

Contact name and details: Rob Ware, 01471 855350

Who else was there? Ann Packard, Sheila Winstone, Allison Hall

Key insights:

What is the market for you?

Leadership, public sector support, funding

Extending the season

Promotion of arts and crafts and visit Scotland, annual theme i.e year of innovation, design etc

Questions:

How can our group get help with tourism promotions?

Govt. and council must do more to improve tourist infrastructure?

How can we get fellow businesses to work together?

Any actions/next steps:

Migrant workers are essential to the industry

Scotland is a multi-cultural community

Public transport operators need to talk to each other to integrate schedules

Scottish Rural Parliament 2016

Open Space Summary

Conversation name: Dedicated veterans housing for singles/families in rural areas out with towns/villages so they are supported but also able to contribute their skills to those communities

Contact name and details: Carol Hutton cbhutton@gmail.com

Who else was there?

Key insights:

- Paid job with tied housing on islands etc for medics so they locate into/out of remote areas during SCV or after release to augment/replace 1st responders
- 400 charities for vets – no one knows what each other is doing. Do we have or can we make an overarching group's for vets housing?
- Purpose built 2/3/4 bedroom homes or 2 br flats; large gardens detached homes; shower Rooms; mini communities in very rural areas
- Flats of block of 4, bungalow style with large high lofts
- Derelict homes to have incentives to rebuild derelicts to put back into use
- Can vets housing charities bring unfit units up to standard in exchange for 100 years. Lease back sublet for vets?
- Can vets get a special tenancy lease which is secure?? i.e for their lifetime??
- Could these first responder's ex-medics have one unit within mini-community for vets only?
-

Questions:

Any actions/next steps:

Susan Wilkie will provide stats on housing in Scotland

Stephen Gregg to liaise with post-discussion for how things went

I will liaise with riders to fundraise for vets rural home project

Manifesto proposal submitted by Carol Sutton

Scottish Rural Parliament 2016

Open Space Summary

Conversation name: Women and Land

Contact name and details: Alison Hall – alisonworld@hotmail.co.uk

Who else was there?

Lee Harton CNPA; Heather Brash; Fiona; Lindsay Chalmers; Claire Martin

Key insights:

- Practicalities of succession law
- Socialisation of girls/women
- Economic activity that isn't accounted
- Research current and needed

Questions:

N/A

Any actions/next steps:

Participation in succession law consultation

Access to and encouragement of training for women in agriculture and related industry

Consciousness-raising re: women in rural life

Gender Equality in the rural parliament manifesto

Scottish Rural Parliament 2016

Open Space Summary

Conversation Name:

National rural infrastructure plan development, focus, your role.

Contact name & Details:

Alistair Prior – alistair.prior@gov.scot

Who else was there?:

Pip Taber, Roland Stiven, Alison, Heather, Ann, Peter, David,

Key insights:

Scottish rural growth deal.

Min assets/services to access.

Enhance existing strategies.

Co-ordinated narrative on existing work streams – how are our interventions meet the needs of rural.

Questions:

Could it develop IT solutions?

Role for project managers and amateurs to stimulate investment?

Min obligation to provide service?

Is there a role for RP and what is it?

Can we strike balance between locally and centrally led solutions?

Any actions/Next steps:

To flesh out ideas for development of plan.

Scottish Rural Parliament 2016

Open Space Summary

Conversation Name:

How do we create integrated developments that meet holistic needs of communities?

Contact name & Details:

Anne Winther – anne@annewinther.org

Who else was there?:

Camille Dressler, Moira Robertson, Dick Robertson, Alison MacLeod

Key insights:

Strategic and holistic plans that have grown out of extensive and exclusive consultation.

Community led developments, not top[down.

Community and regional councils that listen, understand needs and have power and voice.

Developments must consider wider socio-economic impacts, stakeholders and needs, e.g. care, access, transport.

Questions:

Is Brechin a model of integrated development? No!

Why are the Charette outcomes ignored in Brechin?

North Coast 500 – how can community interest groups get their voices heard?

Any actions/Next steps:

Manifesto addition democracy & governance.

2nd bullet point change to: active engagement by Scottish Government and local councils must deliver new community powers and budgets, community and regional planning partnerships, and the transparency and the outcomes of local decision making.

4th bullet point change to: an independent body of appeal needs to be set up to consider conflicts between communities and local authorities.

Scottish Rural Parliament 2016

Open Space Summary

Conversation Name:

How do you encourage young people to consider careers in the land based sector?

Contact name & Details:

Sheena Howden – sheena.howden@lantra.co.uk

Who else was there?

Dougie Brunton, Jodi MacLeod, Roland Stiven, Anne Simpson, Jen Willoughby, David Tillick, Pam Rodway,

Key insights:

Housing (whole approach as no point in jobs and nowhere to stay).

Career progression needs highlighting in VQs.

Work ready youngsters are needed.

Shared apprenticeships.

Challenge with MA on an island.

Questions:

Make the area attractive to potential young people.

Any actions/Next steps:

More support for employers, i.e. MAs as if in rural area, difficulty accessing support.

Redeemable vouchers for Scottish graduates to start? careers? in rural areas.

Opportunities regarding career progression in careers need to be highlighted.

Young people need to be work ready – opportunity for learning from employers; young people doing the job already.

Scottish Rural Parliament 2016

Open Space Summary

Conversation Name:

Who and what is rural land for?

Contact name & Details:

Janet Moxley; janet.moxley2@gmail.com

Who else was there?

Gerald Banks, Simon Brooke, Claire Martin, Claudine Daft, Graham Baile, Joyce Benson, Mark Johnson, Lorraine Frew,

Key insights:

Landowners can stop tourist recreation activities, e.g. paths & cycling, variable attitude.

How should subsidy/support for agriculture land use be targeted.

Not all land is suitable for food production. What should be done with it?

Need to recognise interconnections of landscape & ecosystems, e.g. with respect to flooding.

Need for dialogue.

Questions:

Who should decide land use? Communities have little say.

Uncertainty about support not good?

What will support be like post CAP?

Any actions/Next steps:

Further discussion post Brexit policy with all stakeholders in rural Scotland.

Identify all relevant stakeholders and be inclusive.

Steps to stop depopulation/loss of skilled young people.

Scottish Rural Parliament 2016

Open Space Summary

Conversation Name: How do we help rural communities access affordable housing?

Name: Stephen Gregg – Highlands Small Communities Housing Trust, stephen.gregg@hscht.co.uk

Who else came?

Alison – Community Enterprise; Paul – Tarvest Development Trust; Andy – Blackness; Lee – CPNA

Key Insights

- Increasing awareness of Rural Housing Fund etc
- Improved links with local authorities to help ease the process of acquiring housing: lack of community influence
- Land prices in relation to zoning makes projects unfeasible
- Money! Finance is vital

Questions?

Why do some local authorities not work in partnership with local communities?

Can land be acquired by communities where there is a desire for affordable housing?

Is there a toolkit or step by step resource where communities can access In a step-by-step fashion?

Actions/Next steps?

Make more communities aware of funds available for affordable housing development

Improve links and communication between communities and local authorities to help deliver projects.

Share experiences of successful communities who have delivered affordable housing

Ensure funding mechanisms continue beyond current timescales.

Scottish Rural Parliament 2016

Open Space Summary Sheet

Conversation name: How to get the rural voice heard?

Contact name and details: Gordon Harrison - gordy.harrison@btinternet.com

Who else was there? Clare Symonds Planning Democracy; Elaine McGregor - Scottish Government; Bill Duff - Angus Councillor; Murray Ferguson - Director of Planning, Cairngorm ; Jane Dekker - Ranch and Tummel ; Derek Warren - Eden Project; Name not known - Catto, Elgin CC, Geoff Hobson, Community Council; Rob Ware, Sleat Community Council

Key insights:

- Community Councils should be given ore status
- Community Councillors should be given more training.
- Community Councils should be given the right to appeal a local Council decision.
- Community Councils should be given more funds if necessary.

Questions:

Can the Ombudsman be given ore powers in relation planning decisions?

Why can't the Community Council query a decision made by the the local Council?

How can the relationship between the local Council and the Community Council be improved?

Any actions/next steps:

Local Councils must respect Community Councils

When CC's object to planning decisions, they must be given a reasoned response (never ignored.)

Local Council arranged public meeting, it must be at a time to cater for these in work.

Ask local councils to provide planning training.