

## Scottish Rural Action Conference & AGM

Inclusive rural development post 2020: Towards a vision for rural Scotland.

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## AGENDA: Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September

### 12.30pm Registration

#### **1 – 4.30pm Ideation: The future of rural development**

A workshop for those involved professionally in rural development in local authorities, LEADER, government and economic development positions. This workshop will look at how rural development initiatives will need to change and what actions need to be taken now and in the future, including threats and mitigation as well as opportunities.

#### **3 – 5pm Telling your story using digital: Building your own grassroots campaign**

A workshop for SRA volunteers and prospective volunteers. This workshop will cover the basics of digital storytelling and using your mobile device to develop a real-time social media campaign. Led by Dr. Jennifer Jones from Media for Communities.

#### **Evening dinner & accommodation**

Dinner, overnight accommodation and breakfast can be booked through us for the adjacent Holiday Inn Express.

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## AGENDA: Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September

### 9.30am Registration & exhibition

#### **10am Progress and context**

**Amanda Burgauer, Scottish Rural Action**

**Paul Daly, Scottish Rural Action: Policy opportunities and challenges for rural Scotland**

*Upcoming policy opportunities and challenges for rural Scotland over the next 6 – 12 months including the Programme for Government 2017-18.*

#### **10.30am The future of rural development**

**Professor Sarah Skerratt, SRUC: A vision for rural Scotland**

*There's a need to know where we are going, and why, and how to get there...This presentation will examine vision statements for rural Scotland, who should own that vision, and how we move from a vision to reality.*

**Rachel Fox, Scottish Water: Scenario Planning: Four Plausible Futures**

*To ensure Scottish Water's customers continue to receive an excellent service into the future, we need to be prepared for what the future might bring. Of course, no one can predict the future; we applied a scenario planning process with input from across the business and our stakeholders. From this process we developed four plausible futures. This has helped us consider how we may need to operate in to the middle of the century and how our overall strategic approach can be made more resilient to future uncertainties and challenges.*

**Lesley Riddoch, Journalist: Future of Rural Scotland --DIY Communities?**

*With plans to devolve power to communities whilst keeping the existing pattern of super-sized councils intact, rural Scotland may become a patchwork of DIY communities - some resourceful and asset-rich, others left behind. Should rural Scots embrace this future or campaign for something different?*

**11.20am Question panel**

*An opportunity to ask questions of our speakers and comment on their presentations.*

**12.00 Lunch and exhibition**

Enjoy a complimentary lunch and a chat with our exhibitors.

**12.45pm Presentations from members**

John Beaton, Inclusion Scotland

John Crawford, Equiworld Club Ltd NPMO: The formation of The Countryside Youth Trust

- *Guiding and assisting young people provides good investment in our future.*
- *Providing sport and fun at minimal cost pays dividends.*
- *The end result aims at caring for the countryside and improving the rural economy.*

**Jenny Milne, JLM: Rural Transport, Connectivity and Mobility**

- *Brief overview of where we are on a project in the Cairngorm National Park.*
- *Mobility and MaaS (Mobility as a Service).*
- *Social policies and the rural economy.*

**Ninian Stuart, Reforesting Scotland + Centre for Stewardship: Thousand Huts Campaign**

*Since the launch of "A thousand huts" in 2011, this shoestring campaign has secured large public and political support because of the potential health and wellbeing benefits of hutting as well as benefits to local economies. As a result, Scottish Government has amended both Planning Guidance and Building regulations to allow many more Scots to*

*enjoy their own wee but 'n ben in the country. 2018 will see the building of first new huts sites.*

### **1.10pm Annual General Meeting**

Annual General Meeting for Scottish Rural Action – see separate agenda.

### **2.00pm Workshops**

Our workshops will explore some of the key areas which will contribute to a collective vision for rural Scotland, which will be extended at the Scottish Rural Parliament in 2018. Pick one workshop:

#### **A: Developing & empowering rural leaders for the future**

*with Sandy Brunton (Mull & Iona Community Trust), Alison Macleod (Applecross Community Company) and Carron Tobin (Rural Dimensions)*

As we rely an increasing amount on our rural communities to deliver services, strengthen our economy and to design their own future, we need to ensure we are fostering leadership skills. This workshop will input into a number of SRA work streams by identifying how rural policy can foster leadership now and in the future, and identifying practical training and support SRA can deliver to support our emerging leaders.

#### **B: Rural Transport: Exploring the rural perspective on transport for the future**

*with Daniel Lafferty (Transport Scotland), Jenny Milne (JLM) and Norette Ferns (Scottish Rural Network)*

An early opportunity to input into the National Transport Strategy as we begin contemplating the steps we need to take now to future proof our transport system, and ensure rural communities are not left behind.

#### **C: Empty commercial property: A model for the future**

*with Gordon Harrison (Scottish Rural Action), Gavin Leask (Shelter) and Sheena Boyd*

With 34,000 long-term empty homes in Scotland and a housing shortage across rural Scotland, we need to consider how to address the shortage. This workshop looks at the successful Empty Homes Scheme, extending the scheme to encompass commercial property as well as residential, and the potential role of Compulsory Purchase Orders.

### **3.00pm Break**

### **3.15pm Workshops**

Pick one:

#### **D: Inclusiveness & wellbeing in rural Scotland**

*with Jim Hume (National Rural Mental Health Forum), Anne Connor (Rural Wisdom) and Fiona Thompson (Scottish Rural Action)*

How do we develop rural policy that is inclusive and protects wellbeing? As we start considering the future of rural policy post-2020 we have an opportunity to place inclusiveness and wellbeing at the heart of rural development.

**E: Addressing Climate Change**

*with Paul Daly (Scottish Rural Action and Friends of the Earth) and Nadezhda Filipova*

Considering our viewpoint on climate change and key environmental issues as well as the SRA response for the Climate Change Bill.

**4.15pm Volunteering with SRA**

**4.25pm Summing-up & Prioritisation**

Brief feedback from workshops and plenary discussion.

**5pm Event concludes**