Cross Party Group in the Scottish Parliament on Rural Policy

Tuesday 29th October 2019

6-7:30pm

Scottish Parliament, Committee Room 2

Taking a place-based approach to address demographic change in rural Scotland

Approved Minutes

1. Welcome, introduction and apologies

Colin Smyth MSP (chair and Group co-convenor) welcomed everyone to Parliament for the Group's first meeting of 2019-20. He noted that the Secretariat would list apologies in the meeting minutes which would be available shortly after the meeting. The RPC team will be tweeting during the meeting using #cpgrural and will use photos – no objections were noted.

A sign-in sheet was being passed around, with everyone encouraged to sign it before leaving.

2. Group AGM

Colin Smyth MSP noted that before we move onto tonight's main business, the Group's AGM must be held to confirm office bearers for the coming year. Colin Smyth MSP confirmed that all 4 co-convenors were keen to continue in their role. Peter Chapman MSP proposed this, seconded by Ian Macdonald.

Colin Smyth MSP also confirmed that SRUC's Rural Policy Centre wished to continue as Secretariat, and this was proposed by Peter Chapman MSP and seconded by Ian Macdonald. SRUC was also thanked for its ongoing support for the Group.

3. Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting

Colin Smyth MSP informed the Group that the minutes of the previous meeting required approval. The unapproved minutes were circulated by the Secretariat prior to the summer recess. Some comments were received and these have been dealt with. The minutes now require approval. These were proposed as a true record of the meeting by Ian Macdonald and seconded by Ross McLaren. The approved minutes will be uploaded by the Secretariat following this meeting.

4. Presentations, followed by discussion

Colin Smyth MSP outlined the format for tonight's meeting with a number of presenters tasked with giving max 5 minute introductions to the topic. The first three presenters were providing contextual information on demographic change in Scotland, while the following five were providing some regional/local perspectives, followed by our final presenter who was providing an insight from her research work on place-based policy in particular in Canada.

- **Simon Fuller:** Deputy Director, Rural & Environmental Science and Analytical Services, Scottish Government – *Contextual information on how rural Scotland's population is projected to change in future* (see slides).
    - o Figures based on data from National Records of Scotland, at national level, using four categorisations of local authorities. Projecting forward based on existing trends; do not consider the potential impact of different policy options.
    - o Scotland as a whole is projected to see a 5% increase in population over the next 30 years, due to in-migration. Natural change in Scotland's population alone would mean a decline in this time period, particularly in rural areas, where the working age population (in particular) is projected to decline.
    - o There is significant variation in projected growth across Scotland with population decline projected in some places (mainly more remote locations, in some areas up to 20%), while growth is projected in others (especially in Edinburgh and surrounding areas).
    - o These trends pose challenges in terms of the drivers of future economic growth, the provision of public services and the future labour supply to meet labour requirements.
- **Jon Hopkins**: James Hutton Institute – *Scotland's Sparsely Populated Areas* (see slide)
    - o Sparsely populated areas (SPA) work has been undertaken as part of wider work within the Scottish Government funded Strategic Research Programme.
    - o SPAs are areas where less than 10,000 people can be reached within 30 minutes drive time using roads and ferries. The SPA accounts for just under half of Scotland's land area and 137,000 population. There are six different sub-regions identified within the SPA.
    - o Between 1991 and 2018 the SPA lost 4% of its population, compared to population growth in Scotland's other rural, non-SPA areas and in urban areas.
    - o Between 2011 and 2046 it is projected that the total SPA population will fall by 25%, and this decline will be observed across all six sub-regions. The largest decline will be in Argyll and Bute and the smallest in the Northern Isles. The working age population is projected to fall by 39%.
    - o The key demographic issue is the small number of younger people/children which is contributing to the shrinking population in future. There is a need for increased in-migration to the SPA.
- **Calum Macleod**: *Community Land Scotland – Community Empowerment and Sustainable Landscapes* (see slide and accompanying notes)
    - o There is a strong link between sustainable landscapes, demographic change and land reform. Place-based approaches are not new. We can look back to the Land

Settlement Act in 1919/20 and its role in addressing demographic issues through a place-based approach e.g. in North Talisker through this lens.

- o Worth noting the recent CLS and Inherit Research Report on community empowerment and landscape. Notions of sustainable place-making involve re-thinking the relationship between communities and landscapes. There are tensions and so there is a need for holistic landscape management, including conservation and culture, which must include the community voice, which is often excluded. Communities are often locked out of decisions about designations, which fundamentally affect their everyday lives.
- o If we are serious about place based approaches, we need to think about landscapes in ways that are economically, socially and environmentally sustainable, and who might value them in these different ways.
- o All landscapes are social constructs which have been moulded by human interactions for years – even the Highlands as an 'untouched wilderness' has never been wild. We need to think about what this means for place-based development. To enable place based development to happen in practice requires a linking of land reform and land ownership in cross-cutting ways. The necessarily policy levers need to be put in place to enable this to happen so that we can move to a more sustainable future.

- **Paul Zochowski:** Planning Advisor, East Lothian Council – *Responding to demographic change in East Lothian*
  - o East Lothian is a largely rural local authority stretching along the coast from Edinburgh towards Berwickshire. It includes some larger settlements, including Musselburgh, North Berwick and Prestonpans. There are good transport links from east to west and there are large numbers of residents commuting to Edinburgh for work and a low job density in East Lothian.
  - o The area has a fast growing population which is only exceeded by Midlothian. This is driven by in-migration, with a 1% growth in one year from 2017-18.
  - o High housing targets have been set in East Lothian as set out in the Local Development Plan, with most growth anticipated to be in the west of the area, closest to Edinburgh. This makes best use of existing available infrastructure and reduces the need for people to travel – i.e. provides the most sustainable options. Environmentally, it also reduces CO_2 emissions and encourages use of public transport rather than private cars. It is also the place where the majority of potential regeneration projects exist.
  - o Only a small part of East Lothian is remote rural; most is accessible rural, with good quality agricultural land and coastline. It is a pressurised rural area and certainly doesn't require attention to address population decline. Some villages have new housing allocations in the Plan. A key part of the Plan is also maintaining countryside around towns to safeguard high quality landscapes around settlements and in providing new landscape designations. Also allocating new green networks between settlements to mitigate growth.
  - o East Lothian Council is also providing support for more rural diversification, including business development, tourism, leisure and environment-based activities, including glamping and wake boarding and family agricultural parks. There are many attractive former agricultural buildings some of which have been converted but there are more opportunities to do so. Local policy is focused on

encouraging their conversion but retaining their traditional appearance where possible.

- o The Plan also recognises the need to support new build affordable housing so that, in the long-run, the character of the countryside is retained with the majority of new building allocated to existing settlements and tourism development focused in the countryside – at the same time as responding to and meeting demand.

- **Thomas Fisher**: Community Development Lens (CoDel) – *Responding to demographic change in Uist*
  - o Research into population change on Uist, and in particular the attraction/retention of young people, partly contributed to the development of the [Islands Revival Blog](#) which focused on identifying greenshoots of positive demographic change. Based on local evidence, the picture painted in the SPA work doesn't feel right everywhere so there was a need to explore the factors that were driving positive change in Uist.
  - o Here there was evidence that young people in their 20s/30s were staying or returning to take advantage of the unique way of life, sense of belonging, family ties, cultural revival, stunning environment, strong sense of identity and enterprising opportunities on Uist.
  - o At the recent Scottish Islands Federation workshop in Grimsay, young people led sessions on crofting, social enterprises, childcare, befriending, One example is Emma who has opened a Scandinavian bakery. This is part of a global trend – with connectivity and social media, you don't need to stay in cities to be connected. Why stay in Glasgow, when you can live in somewhere like Uist for a fraction of the cost, but still enjoy all of the benefits that the island has to offer?
  - o Though the island still has a large proportion of older people, people of different ages are now settling in Uist, which is positively impacting on the number of children. Many island nurseries are now full – and bear in mind that some children are born on the mainland and so are not registered on the island. Preschool enrolment has been stable since the last Census.
  - o Community control of ownership and investment has been a critical trend across the Western Isles recently. There has been huge investment by community organisations and programmes to stimulate enterprises. There is also evidence that young people are investing their own capital in their businesses. They are demonstrating the confidence to invest locally and but constant cost-cutting and centralisation undermines that confidence and local control. There is an ongoing critical need for locally available services. We need to stop managing decline and invest positively in the future. What's happening in Uist is tapping into a wider global shift in terms of the aspirations of young people and Scotland's islands and rural areas are well positioned to make the most of that trend.

- **Murray Ferguson:** Director of Planning and Rural Development, Cairngorms National Park Authority (CNPA) – *Demographic change in the Cairngorms National Park*
  - o The National Park covers an area from Grantown-on-Spey to Blair Atholl. 6% of rural Scotland's land is in the Park and the Park has a population of 18,000. The aims of the Park reflect the holistic approach that Calum MacLeod mentioned earlier – they are centred around people and nature thriving together. Fundamentally it is about ensuring that communities have a sustainable future.

- o The CNPA has a five year Partnership Plan which is signed off by Ministers. The Park doesn't manage any land directly and much of the land in the Park is privately owned.
- o When National Parks were created in Scotland there was a view that they would be a barrier to population growth, but 16 years on, CNP has a very good story to tell – the population has increased 12% since the Park designation has been in place. All of that has been dependent on inward migration – without that, the trend would have been one of a 3.5% decline.
- o Looking forward to 2041, the overall population is expected to decline by 4% while the population of over 75s is expected to increase by 81%.
- o Alongside these population trends, the Park also has an aim to protect the natural environment. The environment in the Park is one of the most important in the whole of the UK with 49% of the land area under a Natura scheme for example.
- o It is worth noting that the population of the Park varies hugely on a seasonal basis as it attracts so many tourist visitors, and that there is a real challenge in the Park regarding access to affordable housing and the high number of short term lets (similar to the challenge found on Skye).
- o As a planning authority CNPA need to ensure that they allocate enough land for future development and they are trying to ensure that there is more than enough affordable housing to meet demand - providing 45% affordable homes in some settlements. Much emphasis is placed on delivery of allocated housing sites, often led by communities.
- o The CNPA will take their Economic Action Plan to their Board in December. This includes identified projects relating to digital connectivity and the smart villages roll out. The Authority is also placing emphasis on the Living Wage Scheme and is trying to develop enhanced use of cultural heritage for tourism. Mairi Gougeon visited the Park recently and launched the [Cairngorm Youth Action Plan](#) – whereby young people in the Park worked with young people across Europe to develop the EUROPARC manifesto.
- **Mark Lodge**: Senior Strategies and Policy Officer, Argyll and Bute Council – *Responding to demographic change in Argyll and Bute*
    - o Argyll and Bute is projected to experience population decline. The Council's in-house projections show that by 2031, the region will lose 5,000 people based on past trends.
    - o There is considerable variation in the projected change across the Argyll and Bute area – it is a large authority with variable characteristics. Two areas are projected to see population growth – Helensburgh and Lomond and around Oban (the area's two largest settlements which tend to have a younger age group. 2,000 extra people are projected in these areas, especially due to in-migration, in the next 15 years. In particular, the number of single person households is projected to increase.
    - o The population aged 75+ is projected to increase by 3,000 which is significant in terms of service provision and the labour market. In and around Dunoon and Bute – in-migration and out-migration is more balanced but in-migrants are generally older.
    - o The new Argyll and Bute Local Development Plan tries to distill initiatives that the Council are taking to reverse population decline. It has designated two growth areas where a flexible approach is being taken to facilitate development, including

ensuring that there is sufficient and appropriate housing, industry and business allocations in different locations.

- o The five main towns in Argyll and Bute have been subject to investment by the Council over the last five years or so, for example, in the public realm, marinas, etc.
- o Housing is a key issue in Argyll and Bute, including in terms of affordability especially for young people and they are exploring ways to tackle that e.g. through simplified planning zones and taking a flexible approach to development in the countryside.

- **Cameron Anson**: Our island Home Development Officer, Rural Housing Scotland – *Addressing population decline through housing provision in Scotland's islands*
  - o Cameron started by noting the importance of recognising the different groups within the current and projected future population – young people, those of working age, older people.
  - o He also noted the importance of geography – are we focusing on whole islands or communities within islands? Often young folk will move to another community within the same island. How local do we get? We need to ask communities what is important to them at local level on islands.
  - o West Harris area is a great example – in 2010 the community bought the estate and they have (in partnership) delivered six houses. They have seen a 20% increase in population, including an increase in pre-school age children from one to seven. In 2012 the population was 119 and in 2019 it is now 151 and they are hoping to reach 170 in the next few years.
  - o Ulva Ferry on Mull – the local school was threatened due to a decline in the number of children so the community campaigned to get two houses and managed to increase the school roll by 50% and the working age population by 10%.
  - o In Staffin on Skye, the community sought crowdfunding to deliver a funding gap they faced when wishing to deliver new housing. The cost of building housing is higher in the islands – which effectively serves to penalise people wishing to live on islands.
  - o So, these are two examples of communities that have delivered housing, and hopefully Staffin will be successful here too. These efforts have been led by the community – but this is a big responsibility for them to take on, especially if they are taking on significant loan financing.
  - o What are some of the solutions? Key is placing trust in communities to take the most appropriate place-based approaches, based on their knowledge of the need. Communities are being asked to put in a monumental effort so we need to trust them to know what's right. Housing needs to increasingly be seen as a key driver to enable communities to be sustained and to grow.

- **Ashleigh Weeden** (University of Guelph, Canada and Visitor to SRUC) – *Some reflections on place-based policy*
  - o Ashleigh started by asking what do we mean by place? She argued that we need to be much clearer about what we mean by place-based policy. We need to be thinking about place in a progressive way, not thinking of place as an area with a boundary but as somewhere that has an identity and is not static in time. Places have spatial realities and characteristics that policy often doesn't deal well with.
  - o For example, if you are on a train travelling across a landscape looking out of the window, you see a myriad of stories. Too often rural policy treats places like they

6

are frozen in time rather than thinking what they would look like as things change going forward. Place is somewhere, but who defines that. We need to be careful about how we define that ourselves and about whose story/ies we are telling and who gets to belong to a place and why.

o Numbers will only tell us so much; two people may be a population boom in one area.

o We increasingly live in a world where there is a global network of highly localised places. Rural places do not exist in themselves, but they are linked to other rural and urban places. There are layers of places, which may lead to potential conflicts. Who's histories are told? Places are always shaped by a mixture of social relations, and people have complex identities which are often tightly related to the land.

o Place-based policy has to wrestle with spatial realities and often conflicting, interacting identities. For example, someone may live on an island but work off-island. Everyone is connected into wider networks of place and people.

o We can't just make simple interventions nor reduce places to containers, and we ned to tell a better story about rural development.

Questions and Discussion

• **Ian Macdonald** – if the speakers had a magic wand, what is the answer to keeping people where they want to be?

   o Thomas Fisher: analysing the Islands Revival blog reveals three key things – changing the aspirations amongst migrants, investment (rather than managing decline) and giving communities real control and ownership of resources (e.g. through creating development trusts), not just consultation.

   o Mark Lodge: it is important to retain opportunities for higher education and meaningful well paid employment. We also need to recognise that access to housing is a major barrier, particularly for young people.

   o Murray Ferguson: in CNP huge benefits have been seen from tourism. There are challenges in some areas with too many visitors which are becoming overcrowded but other areas of the Park could do with more development. How can we better spread out the benefits of tourism across the Park and indeed across Scotland to help everywhere?

   o Ashleigh Weeden: Perhaps we need to be more honest in recognition that it may be the case that not all rural places will survive forever. There's a community in Newfoundland where they are turning off the lights on 31st December and everyone is relocating – it is basically the closure of a town. Should more places be allowed to 'die with dignity'? also, we need to be clear that often the best thing for young people is to go away and to come back – what is critical is that we give people something to come back to in rural places.

   o Cameron Anson: Homes are critical. We are increasingly hearing of people who are 'young and stuck'- they can't find their own home and are still living with parents. Over time they become fed up and leave rural places. We need to work with communities to understand what is needed there. we need to build new homes and make better use of empty homes. For this to happen, we need a change in housing policy and how we currently invest in housing. We need more aspirational housing investment and to look beyond current

and past trends. We are caught in a situation in many places where people have left so we are building fewer houses but then this becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy. We need an attitude change to islands and rural communities – and Islands Revival is helping with that. We need to stop telling young people that there is nothing there for them – as that just encourages them to leave. We need to trust communities more – and within that, trust young people more to know themselves if they want to be there.

- o Calum Macleod: We need to enable communities to be empowered and to deliver for themselves on the ground. This requires enabling communities to use the assets and resources available to them – empower them to deliver sustainable development. We also need to get away from the idea that rural is homogenous. Rather than 'death with dignity', we might be better to think about 're-birth with rights' to encourage resettlement in rural areas. This is fundamentally related to human rights and SG is committed to the human rights perspective. The idea that people are living in rural communities because it is a lifestyle choice is misplaced. Communities have a right to exist and people have a right to live where they choose. We need to think better about how public policy gets out of its silos and delivers across the board.
- o Andrew Stewart (East Lothian Council): Employment is critical. Also we need to re-think the planning use classes to free up sites for housing development purposes. It is critical that alongside employment we tackle the housing issues that have been raised. The new Planning Act should enable the creation of new place plans which can serve as new vehicles for community planning and development planning to come together; local people should also have a stronger role in shaping local development plans. We also need to think about how we do this in the context of the climate emergency. What does sustainable and sustainability mean in rural areas, in contrast to urban sustainability? How can this be achieved in East Lothian rather than simply encouraging more people to commute into Edinburgh? The housing situation in the area is severely impacted by the higher income levels of commuters. There is also a transport capacity issue. In reality, it is easiest to locate jobs where people want to live and this is what the council is trying to achieve. But equally the council recognises the need to go beyond the main areas allocated for development in order to facilitate rural diversification by providing opportunities for business development and growth and also by allocating sites for housing, including affordable housing.
- o Thomas Fisher: On Uist, if you ask people jobs are important, but the reality is that job vacancies are left unfilled. So its not just about creating more jobs, as there are clearly other constraints too. Sometimes it is hard to attract families because there is only one vacancy and both adults wish to work.
- Claire Slipper (NFUS) – In relation to the Migration Advisory Committee and preparing responses to their report, while there is recognition of the importance of migration into rural areas to tackle depopulation trends, in the agri-food sector (and indeed others) there is a reliance on migrants from outside the UK. How can we use targeted migration policies to fill vacancies in rural areas?
  - o Lorraine Cook (COSLA) referred to the need to recognise that rural and urban areas have different migration requirements, as do different economic

sectors, so we require a flexible application system that is not dictated by the cities.

- o Mark Stamford (SCDI) asked about the potential of technology to help us combat a lack of in-migration. Recognising that developing/using technology requires adequate finance, but can this provide any opportunities? Or is it actually a hindrance and actually we still need people coming in to provide labour?
- o Claire Slipper (NFUS) responded by recognising the fact that technology does not provide a solution on farms in all situations. In an industry which prides itself on provenance and quality, this is not a solution across the board.
- o Ashleigh Weeden: Agreed that technology is not a solution for everything. We need to place value on collecting peoples' stories as often the reality does not fit well with the expectations or understandings of policy-makers.
- o Simon Fuller: noted the need to recognise that the contributions of migrants go beyond the economic (i.e. the picking of berries) for rural communities (e.g. their children helping to sustain local schools).

- Ross McLaren (Scottish Churches Rural Group): noted that one of the key things that enables things to happen in communities is leadership. Individuals often make substantial contributions to the communities in which they live, for example, in terms of music or someone who has this ability to take on a leadership role. He argued that professional people going into rural communities to work with them should recognise these people and the need to be sensitive to what they are trying to do. Alongside policy changes we need to have the right people at the right time, with courage, commitment, insight, etc.
- Amelia Kuch (Scottish Government): Noted that, while we can acknowledge the role of migrants to offset population decline, inward migration is not enough by itself. We need to also work to create opportunities for migrants – there is evidence that migrants in Germany are now moving elsewhere because this approach has not been taken.
- Jackie Brierton (GrowBiz): Noted that many people had talked about the importance of employment and jobs but the reality is that nearly one quarter of the population in rural areas is self-employed – double the rate than in most urban areas. We don't focus nearly enough on how the self-employed are running micro businesses to sustain themselves. How can we focus more strongly on the reality on the ground in terms of self-employment, but also in terms of the fact that so many more diverse people are coming into rural areas, with more diverse backgrounds but they are often being left very isolated. We need to find better ways of helping them connect and build on the microeconomy that is the backbone of the rural economy in Scotland.
- Frances Simpson (Support in Mind Scotland): Referred to the inequalities in rural areas, and the extent of poverty and mental ill-health challenges. How can we build in kindness and compassion to everything we do in order to ensure that he population as a whole is looked after and that our approaches are inclusive?
- Kathy Pollard (Scottish Land Commission): the SLC is currently doing work which is looking at the barriers and constraints to place-making. Anyone interested in finding out more is welcome to contact Kathy or her colleagues.

- Sarah Skerratt (SRUC): Asked if we need more a lens focusing on 'pressurised rural areas' like East Lothian to balance the focus which is often put on remote rural, depopulation, etc.
    - Paul Zochowski: responded by saying that the challenges faced in East Lothian are similar – in terms of providing local jobs, housing, transport, reusing existing buildings, etc. but different. East Lothian has a challenge with reverse commuting – people living in urban centres (mainly Edinburgh) and travelling out to the area as they are earning low wages and can't afford local expensive housing. So East Lothian Council is keen to encourage local small-scale affordable housing to overcome this problem. Paul also noted the challenge of providing services in a rural area, including primary schools, bus services, etc. and the need for innovative solutions. A good example is the use of buses to deliver primary school lunches in Haddington.
- Colin Smyth MSP reiterated the importance of recognising that similar issues may apply in different places, but the challenges are different. If we are serious about inclusive growth we need to ensure that all communities benefit from that. Ne mentioned the Stranraer waterfront development which is a significant regeneration project in Stranraer but may not make a massive contribution to Scotland as a whole. This is a good example of place-based regeneration and investing in communities – and example of an alternative 'rebirth with rights' rather than 'death with dignity'.

5. AOB

Gail Ross MSP came into the CPG meeting to inform participants about her Proposed Remote Rural Communities (Scotland) Bill, which was launched this evening in Parliament.

Gail Ross MSP set the Proposed Bill in the context of the Islands (Scotland) Bill and the need to recognise that many remote rural areas on the mainland of Scotland face similar challenges to Scotland's islands, including distance, depopulation (she specifically referenced the recent Highland Council Corporate Plan and its worrying population projections for parts of the Highland area), connectivity, etc. She argued that there may be lessons to be learned for remote rural Scotland from island proofing (the island community impact assessment process) which has been introduced as part of the Islands (Scotland) Bill, and it may be worth considering the writing of a Remote Rural Scotland Plan, mirroring the Islands Plan. She also raised issues relating to the remote rural classification and the size of remote rural parliamentary constituencies which are based on a minimum population size rather than taking account of geography and the distance/time to travel across the constituency.

There is a consultation now open on the Proposed Bill and Gail Ross MSP encouraged everyone to participate. The deadline is 31st January 2020.

6. Next meeting – Tuesday 10th December 2019 – Planning for Scotland's Land

Colin Smyth MSP closed the meeting by thanking the speakers and all participants.

Attendees:

Alan McCombes	John Muir Trust
Alistair Hamilton	SRUC
Alix Porritt	SRUC
Amelia Kuch	Scottish Government
Andrew Lacey	Head of SAC Consulting Solutions
Andy Ruck	UHI
Angus MacDonald MSP	
Ann MacSween	Historic Environment Scotland
Andrew Millar	University of Edinburgh
Andy Ruck	UHI
Andrew Stewart	East Lothian Council
Ashleigh Weeden	University of Guelph
Ben Lejac	Highland and Islands Connections project
Bevan Dell	University of Edinburgh
Bryan McGrath	Scottish Borders Council
Calum Macleod	Community Land Scotland (speaker)
Cameron Anson	Rural Housing Scotland (speaker)
Clare Slipper	NFUS
Colin Smyth MSP	Co-convenor and meeting chair
Courtney Peyton	Value Project Manager / Crown Estate Scotland (Interim Manager)
David Cameron	Community Land Scotland
David Nicholson	
David Michie	Soil Association
Debbie McLean	For Galbraith
Derek Janes	A Heart for Duns
Derek Logie	Rural Housing Service
Douglas Scott	Scottish Borders Council
Elaine McGregor	Scottish Government
Emily Dice	University of Edinburgh
Eric Calderwood	Stirling University and the Cooperative Group
Fei Chen	University of Edinburgh
Frances Simpson	Support in Mind Scotland
Francis Yuanmou WANG	University of Edinburgh
Frank Beattie	Scottish Enterprise
Frederick Foxton	Scottish Government / RESAS

Gavin Mowatt	Scottish Land & Estates
Graeme Beale	RESAS, Scottish Government
Ian Mcdonald	
Ian Muirhead	Agricultural Industries Confederation Scotland
Jackie Brierton	GrowBiz
Jane Atterton	SRUC
Jayne Glass	SRUC
Jim Hume	National Rural Mental Health Forum
John Lang	Crown Estate Scotland
Jonathon Hopkins	James Hutton Institute (speaker)
Joseph Ritchie	RESAS, Scottish Government
Katherine Pollard	Scottish Land Commission
Kathryn Henderson	University of Edinburgh
Lena Hutton	DTA Scotland
Lindsay Wood	A Heart for Duns
Liz Hawkins	Scottish Government
Lorraine Cook	COSLA
Marc Strathie	SCDI
Mark Lodge	Argyll and Bute Council (speaker)
Mathilde Delestre	PAS
Merle Palmer	GrowBiz
Michelle Mcdonald	
Murray Ferguson	Cairngorms National Park (speaker)
Paul Zochowski	East Lothian Council (speaker)
Peter Chapman MSP	
Rachel Tennant	Chair - Landscape Institute Scotland
Richard Haw	RESAS, Scottish Government
Richard Howat	Scottish Churches Housing Action
Rob Mc Morran	SRUC
Ross McLaren	Scottish Churches Rural Group
Sarah Skerratt	SRUC
Sara Thiam	SCDI
Sarah Jones	SRUC
Scott Murray	SRUC
Simon Fuller	Scottish Government (speaker)
Siyao Chen	University of Edinburgh
Thomas Fisher	CoDel (speaker)
YIN Yin	University of Edinburgh
Zoe Meldrum	NFUS

Apologies

Andrew Copus, Ann Packard, Archie Stewart, David Henderson-Howatt, David Whiteford, Davy MacCracken, Gillian Newman, Harriet Donald, Iain Macdonald, Jamie Carruthers, John Farrington, John Mitchell, Karen Dobbie, Leanne Townsend, Lorna Philip, Mark Shucksmith, Pip Tabor, Priscilla Gordon-Duff, Rebecca Audsley, Rhoda Grant MSP, Shaun Marley, Susan Brooks, Wayne Grills, Helen Macdonald, Peter Ross, Anne McNeill.