



SRN ACTIVITY REVIEW

October - December 2025

WHO ARE WE?

The Scottish Rural Network (SRN) supports and encourages rural development by building the capacity and capabilities of rural and island communities and stakeholders and by sharing information, ideas, good practice and funding opportunities.

Every year, we develop an operational plan which is informed by SG policy priorities and by input from rural and island (RAI) stakeholders to make sure we are meeting the following objectives:

- Support and facilitate people from rural and island communities, businesses and the wider public to take part in policy developments that affect them.
- Help improve the development and delivery of the Scottish Rural Development Programme (SRDP), its replacement and wider agri and forestry schemes including the National Test Programme and the Agricultural Reform Programme,
- Inform farmers, rural businesses and communities about wider policy and funding opportunities relevant to them
- Encourage innovation in agriculture, food production, forestry and rural and island areas and communities

CHANNELS & AUDIENCE

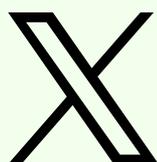
The SRN have a unique audience of organisations and people who live or are interested in Scotland's rural areas, and we communicate with our audience through a range of channels, including:



FACEBOOK
4,534 followers



WEBSITE
<https://www.ruralnetwork.scot/>



X
6,855 followers



NEWSLETTER
Scottish Rural Network
subscribers: 1,894



INSTAGRAM
2,474 followers

Figures correct as of January 2026

TIMELINE OF ACTIVITY - QUARTER 3

Oct
2025



European Rural Parliament comes to Scotland

Over the 20-23 October 2025, over 400 rural delegates from more than 40 European countries gathered in Inverurie in for the European Rural Parliament (ERP), a participative democratic assembly that shines a spotlight on the power of rural communities.

The SRN were core funders of the event and along with colleagues from LRRIP provided hands on support throughout the event.

We worked with VisitScotland, event organisers and a range of community groups to produce an excellent video capturing the energy, collaboration and community spirit of the ERP. It offers a vibrant look at the people, places and ideas that shaped the gathering, and highlights Scotland's role in bringing rural voices together from across Europe.

More info, including video [here](#)

Blogs

October was a busy month for blog articles with six articles published covering topics ranging from young people's attitudes to driving change to address climate change to re-imagining childcare in Scotland's remote, rural and island communities.

Check out our blog section to see the full range of blogs - [SRN Blog Page](#)



Go wild in the country!



In October we publish a new case study. Wild Things is an award winning environmental education charity working in Moray, Aberdeenshire and the Highlands.

Since 2003, Wild Things has enabled over 36,000 children, young people and adults to learn from, protect and find inspiration in their local natural environment.

Wild Things received Community Led Local Development (CLLD) funding of £40,329 towards the cost of a new accessible minibus and support vehicle. The group applied for funding through there Local Action Group (LAG), which is delivered through tsiMoray, one of the twenty which distributes the Scottish Government CLLD fund across rural and island Scotland.

View the video [here](#)

Highland Climate Conference - 8th October 2025

SRN promoted a range of [events](#) in October, including the Highland Climate Conference.

Hosted by the Highlands & Islands Climate Hub and supported by Scottish Government, it was held on 8th October 2025 at the Kingsmill's Hotel in Inverness. The event brought together people from all sectors across the Highlands who are working towards a sustainable, thriving Highland Region.

Event overview and speakers slides [here](#)



Scottish Rural Communities Policy Review

Nov
2025



Work continues on the **Scottish Rural Communities Policy Review** with the first draft of the review circulated to the working group for review and feedback.

The work forms part of a review of three core elements of the Scottish Government's existing funding and support for rural and island communities:

- Community Led Local Development ([CLLD](#))
- Scottish Rural Action ([SRA](#))
- Scottish Rural Network (SRN)

The Scottish Rural Communities Policy Review (SRCPR), commissioned by the Scottish Government, commenced in late 2024 and will continue until early 2026 and is being led by Scotland's Rural College (SRUC).

CLLDNet takes shape!

November saw SRN work with a range of stakeholders to host a Scottish CLLD network - National Workshop in Glasgow.

The workshop brought together people from across rural and island Scotland to agree how a national network might benefit the sector and give thought to how it should operate.

Event report [here](#)

Agritourism conference

SRN were in attendance at the 2025 Scottish Agritourism Conference, which took place on the 27th of November at Perth Concert Hall.

At the event, Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands, Mairi Gougeon announced a new £1 million capital grant scheme, the Agritourism Investment Scheme (AIS)

This year's conference was particularly important as it will inform the [Global Agritourism Conference](#), which will be held in Aberdeen from 23-25 June 2026.

Dec
2025

Wigtown ploughs ahead!

Do you know that the SRN fund [Plunkett UK](#) to develop and host a Scottish Rural and Island Community-Owned Pub Network?

The work forms part of our capacity building support to RAI community groups, helping to build sustainable and resilient communities across RAI Scotland.

In December we published a new case study which featured one such pub, The Ploughman in Wigtown. After reflecting on the loss of the only pub in the village, the community's vision became clear: to create a community-owned space where people feel at home, included, and connected.

Access this inspirational case study [here](#)



Turn on the bright lights!

At the end of December and with Christmas on the horizon, it was ideal timing for our next case study about Freuchie Community Council (FCC) and how they used their community hall to provide a wide range of activities which promote the well-being of Freuchie residents.

This includes setting up a Community Larder to address cost of living concerns, running a community cafe to provide a warm space for villagers to meet and socialise and organising the village Christmas tree and Christmas lights.

See the video [here](#)

Sign up to our weekly newsletter!

Want to stay informed about what's impacting rural and island stakeholders across Scotland?

Whether you are in policy development or delivery of services, the SRN newsletter helps to keep you informed of the latest news affecting rural and island Scotland.

Use the QR code to sign up

