



SRN ACTIVITY REVIEW

January - March 2026

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:

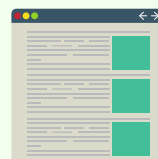
- Support and facilitate people from rural and island communities, businesses and the wider public to take part in policy developments that affect them.
- Help improve the development and delivery of the Scottish Rural Development Programme (SRDP), its replacement and wider agri and forestry schemes 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 and island areas, and we communicate with our audience through a range of channels, including:



FACEBOOK
4,589 followers



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



X
6,810 followers



NEWSLETTER
Scottish Rural Network
subscribers: 1,869



INSTAGRAM
2,531 followers

Figures correct as of May 2026

TIMELINE OF ACTIVITY - QUARTER 3

Jan
2026



Food for thought!

In January we published a video case study featuring Connect Berwickshire Youth Project and how they used Community Led Local development (CLLD) funding to support and develop young people in their community

Connect Berwickshire Youth Project (BYP) are a youth work organisation, working with children and young people.

They exist to increase the confidence, wellbeing and employability of young people in Berwickshire and to develop young people's skills and experience through community activities and volunteering opportunities

This case study film highlights how the group used a Community Led Local development (CLLD) grant of £28,842 to replace and increase the accessibility of their kitchen and purchase PC equipment.

More info, including video [here](#)



Budget

January saw the publication of the [Scottish budget](#) - later than usual. Shona Robison, Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government said at the time:

“Almost £68 billion is being invested in 2026-27 and almost £200 billion through the Scottish Spending Review and Infrastructure Investment Pipeline, demonstrating the scale of our ambition for our nation.”

As a result, we worked at pace to ensure funding commitments for 2026-27 were progressed through our financial processes before the pre-election period commenced.



*Shona Robison
Cabinet Secretary for Finance
and Local Government*

Landmark Nature Restoration Bill passed

Amongst the many news items and announcements we shared in January, one of the most important was the passing of the Natural Environment (Scotland) Bill.

Now, for the first time, statutory targets will be in place to enhance nature and protect biodiversity in Scotland.

The Bill forms a key part of Scotland's response to the twin crises of climate change and nature loss, and will give Ministers new powers to develop legislation relating to wildfire management, sustainable forestry management and our internationally important protected sites. Read the news item [here](#)



Feb
2026

A call to Arms!



Plunkett UK are key delivery partner of the SRN.

They host and deliver the Scottish Rural and Island Community Pub Network.

Funded by SRN, the initiative supports community organisations seeking to develop or take ownership of a local pub within their own community.

In February we published a great blog article featuring Michael Wolverson, Communications Officer with Plunkett UK, who reflected on his visit to The Kenmuir Arms, owned by the New Luce Community Trust. Michael spoke with staff and locals, including members of the Trust to hear how the pub has rejuvenated the community.

You can read the blog article [here](#) along with a short video or check out our blog section to see the full range of blogs - [SRN Blog Page](#)

Farmstrong Scotland menopause campaign gains international recognition

In February we highlighted that Farmstrong Scotland had won a prestigious International award for their **Let's Talk About Menopause in Scottish Agriculture** initiative.

The campaign has opened up conversations around wellbeing, delivering clear, accessible communication and growing engagement across the country.

With an inclusive and scalable approach, Farmstrong Scotland is driving meaningful change in agriculture and setting an inspiring example for the sector.



Read the article [here](#)

March
2026

Lights, camera, action! March case studies

March was a busy month for case studies, with three videos released covering a range of community led initiatives.

Turning up the heat!

Our first case study of the month features Caberfeidh Horizons who received a Community Led Local Development (CLLD) grant of £34,900 to improve their community building and provide support for people suffering fuel poverty.

Access the video [here](#)

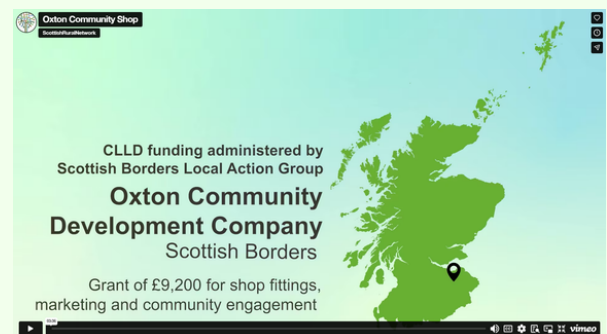


Community owned shop delivers the goods!

A local shop can be a life line within rural and island communities.

This case study film highlights Oxton Community Development Trust who developed and constructed a new community-owned shop.

Access the video [here](#)



Keep on Truckin!

Our third case study film features Carrick Resilience Team who received a grant of £28,585 to purchase an off-road truck to support their volunteer-led rescue service.

Access 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

