



SRN ACTIVITY REVIEW

April - June 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

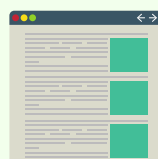
CHANNELS & AUDIENCE

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:



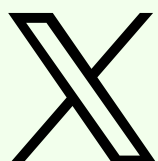
FACEBOOK

4,613 followers



WEBSITE

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



X

6,782 followers



NEWSLETTER

Scottish Rural Network
subscribers: 1,869
(sign up [here](#))



INSTAGRAM

2,606 followers

Figures correct as of July 2026

TIMELINE OF ACTIVITY - QUARTER 1

April
2026

Stakeholder engagement

With pre-election period looming and a new financial year commencing, the team found themselves undertaking quite a bit of stakeholder engagement to ensure work programmes and funding were agreed and in place to meet deadlines.

The SRN's programme of work this year continues to build on the strong relationships and partnership working developed over the last few years. Key work being delivered includes:

Scottish Rural Network			Delivery Partner Funding
Organisation	Work Stream	Grant Amount (£)	Description
Bioregioning Tayside	Tayside Learning Journey - local food production	20,000	Pilot project - seeks to translate the insights and recommendations from earlier efforts into actionable planning tools that promote local self-determination in addressing food-related challenges, enhance community capacity, and inform the development of regional food policy frameworks. Learning to be utilised across RAI*
CoDeL (Community Development Lens)	Uist Beo model roll out	22,000	Build on the successful development and delivery of the Uist Beo platform, taking the learning and trialling in two other rural locations – Glenkens (Dumfries and Galloway) and Assynt (Highlands).
Improvement Services	Poverty Network Capacity Building	60,000	Continues a programme of work to build a network of RAI Local Authority Child Poverty Officers, building capacity, sharing good practice and opportunities for collaboration/co-operation.
Improvement Services	Rural and Island Community Council Capacity Building	45,000	Continues a programme of work to build capacity of community councils across rural and island Scotland. Activity is focused to support First Minister's four key priorities.
National Rural & Island Mental Health Forum	Mental Health and Wellbeing	35,000	Support development and delivery of a network of mental health and wellbeing orgs focused on supporting RAI communities and organisations.
Plunkett UK	Scottish Rural and Islands Community Pubs Network	60,000	Advice, support and capacity building service for rural and island community pub network throughout RAI Scotland - linked to Community Led Local Development, Good Food Nation and Community Wealth Building opportunities.
Scottish Agritourism	New Agritourism Cohort	40,000	New Agritourism Cohort - support new entrants into the sector, build capacity and further strengthen the sector.
Scottish Rural Action	Networking Capacity & Operational	187,000	Support the network and engagement activity of Scottish Rural Action (SRA) to progress the wider RAI movement in Scotland, including secretariat of RAI Youth Local Action Groups (YLAG) and a range of thematic work strands.
SCVO/Other	Village Hall and Community Hub Capacity Building	40,000	Further development of the Village Hall Handbook and lead development and delivery of a national conference (May/June 2026) and three regional events inc. study trips.
		509,000	*RAI = rural and islands

Pre-election period impacts

With the pre-election period coming in to force in April, SRN were restricted in our comms and messaging activity.

However, time was put to good use with planning undertaken for a range of activities post election, including the Royal Highland Show (RHS). The show is Scotland's premier agriculture and land management event. In recent years SRN have work with stakeholders to increase the visibility of rural and island communities at the show.

As a result, for the third year running, our delivery partner Scottish Rural Action (SRA) worked with a fantastic range of organisations to deliver the Community Showcase at the RHS.

Read all about it at the [SRA event report](#)



May
2026

Creating community: village halls and community spaces conference



In May we worked with the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO) and other delivery partners to host the annual Village Hall conference,

Village halls are often the heart of a community; places for people to gather, learn, access services and have fun. This one-day conference allowed people running village and community halls across Scotland to do the same – to connect, share ideas, and inspire each other.

Funded by SRN, the conference is now in its third year. and included sessions on fundraising and creative ways to generate income, digital solutions and cyber safety and combating isolation and loneliness. Feedback was incredibly positive with lots of good practice and ideas shared amongst the attendees.

Rural Networking - Joint Planning Session

Also in May, SRN met with stakeholders in Oban to explore opportunities for collaboration, maximising resource and funding. Representatives of Local Action Groups, SRA and SG Rural Communities Policy attended, with confirmed follow up actions to be taken forward. A project visit was undertaken to Lorn & Oban Reuse Initiative (LORI), which had previously received Community Led Local Development (CLLD) grant funding. This is a really impressive community asset, staffed by amazing volunteers.



June
2026

Lights, camera, action! June case studies published

Quarter One saw three new Community Led Local Development (CLLD) video case studies released in June covering a range of community led initiatives.

Gimme shelter!

Our first case study of the month features Avoch Community Rowing Club, who received a CLLD grant of £78,460 towards the cost of a new boat shed.

Access the video [here](#)



Wind of change!

Carloway Estate Trust (Urras Oighreachd Chàrlabhaigh) is a community landowner on the Isle of Lewis in the Outer Hebrides.

The Trust received CLLD funding of £16,740 towards the cost of surveys and professional services for scoping their community wind project.

Access the video [here](#)



You can grow your own way...

Beechbrae is a social enterprise and charity based in Beechbrae Wood in Blackridge, West Lothian.

They received CLLD funding of £7,864 towards the cost of new equipment, storage facilities and materials, which allowed the group to continue their winter wellbeing activities.

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

