

What is a Rural Parliament?

- **A forum** for those who live and work in rural Scotland to discuss and debate issues of common concern
- **A platform** for placing issues on the political agenda, to influence and speak to government about rural needs
- **A two-year cycle** through which a policy manifesto is taken to local and national government
- **A network** through which to share good practice, knowledge and inspiration
- **A celebration** and shop window of the rural areas, their people, culture and activities, to raise their profile and voice and make their rich experience and work visible across the country
- **An international network** to influence European policy

What are the main components?

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| A forum and platform | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presentation of ideas and issues from those living and operating in rural areas• Plenary talks and debate• Field visits and work groups on key issues• Formulation of proposals resulting in presentation of manifesto• Panel debate with Ministers and policy makers• Politicians and political parties are expected to be present• Illuminates rural issues in the media |
| A two-year cycle | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identifying issues and themes• Inaugural Rural Parliament held around November 2014• Tasks set for the rural movement afterwards• Building the rural movement• Recommendations made to the Rural Parliament in 2016 - and so on... |
| A network for sharing | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Informative workshops• Field visits/travelling workshop• Market place of communities and organisations• Plenary talks; 'speakers corner' - soap box talks |
| Celebration and showcase | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Market place of communities, activities and produce• Workshops on local issues and activities• Culture/art/music events• Local food and drink |
| An international network | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• International conference – connect with European Rural Parliaments• European participation in Scottish events |

How will a Rural Parliament be different from what has been tried before?

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| Based on a tested model | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• There is 20 years of experience from Europe• Community strength and momentum has delivered change• Was a manifesto commitment of the current Scottish Government• Has Government backing and requires Ministerial attendance• Will deliver specific proposals and a manifesto to Government• Involves people from the rural community in the majority• Most participants' costs will be covered |
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The inaugural Scottish Rural Parliament will take place in November 2014, so register your interest at: info@scottishruralparliament.co.uk