

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

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

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