

# 5<sup>th</sup> Scottish Rural & Islands Parliament

## Programme Overview



-  The Scottish Rural & Islands Parliament will bring hundreds of rural and island people and organisations together at a **free hybrid gathering in Fort William on 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2023**.
-  The session outputs will be taken on a **roadshow** across Scotland's rural and island places throughout 2024, and presented to the Scottish Government.
-  They will also be showcased at the **European Rural Parliament**, maintaining Scotland's deep connection with institutions, networks and organisations in Europe.



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## What is the Scottish Rural & Islands Parliament?

The Scottish Rural & Islands Parliament (SRIP) is a process aimed to strengthen the voices of rural and island communities in Scotland and in Europe; to promote self-help, solidarity, exchange and cooperation between communities and to enable people to play their full role in addressing the challenges currently affecting us all. Besides long-term dialogue and advocacy at local, national and international level, the SRIP culminates every 2 years in a large-scale gathering.

There have been three in-person gatherings – in Oban, Brechin and Stranraer. The most recent SRIP took place online in 2021 with 1,500 people participating during the process.

Secretariat of the SRIP is provided by [Scottish Rural Action](#) and the [Scottish Islands Federation](#) with support from [Scottish Rural Network](#). The sessions and outputs are created and owned by ‘curators’, expert organisations involved in supporting rural and island development. The 5<sup>th</sup> SRIP has over 50 curators including third sector bodies such as the [Scottish Community Alliance](#) and [Rural Housing Scotland](#), social enterprises like [InspirAlba](#), academic institutions like [Scotland’s Rural College](#) and the [James Hutton Institute](#) and networks such as the [Scottish Rural & Islands Transport Community](#). It will also see an inaugural **Scottish Rural & Islands Youth Parliament**.

## A local, national and international platform

The SRIP serves to amplify local causes in the places that host the gathering. The theme of the 5<sup>th</sup> SRIP is **village halls and community spaces** and, in a unique partnership with the [Nevis Centre](#) and the [Screen Machine](#), it will help highlight the need for investment in community facilities, including mobile facilities.

At national level, the SRIP outputs shape government policy. The overarching recommendation from the 4<sup>th</sup> SRIP in 2021 was for a cohesive vision and plan for rural and island areas. In April 2023, First Minister Humza Yousaf announced the Scottish Government will publish a [Rural Delivery Plan by 2026](#). The 5<sup>th</sup> SRIP will feed into its development with a Delivery Plan focused workshop on Day 3.

Internationally, the SRIP links to the rural and island movements of 42 European countries. It provides platform for collaboration and knowledge exchange including on the implementation of the European Commission’s [Vision](#) for rural areas.

# Programme

<b>Wednesday 1st Nov</b>	10:30	Registration desk opens in Nevis Centre	
	11:00	Early Bird Film @ Screen Machine	
	12:30	Welcome & Orienteering Speeches	
		Lunch is served in Main Hall	
	13:30	Youth delegates depart for Caol Centre	
	14:00	Workshop Round 1 Open	
		National Islands Plan	hybrid
		Rural poverty: Achieving adequate incomes	hybrid
		Village Halls & Community Spaces	repeated online after 3rd Nov
		Water and Waste Water	repeated online after 3rd Nov
		European Connections	hybrid
		Enterprise: access and progression routes	in person only
	15:30	Workshop Round 1 ends	
	16:00	Workshop Round 2 begins	
		Democracy and Local Governance	hybrid
		Open Space	hybrid
	Climate	repeated online after 3rd Nov	
	Digital Connectivity	repeated online after 3rd Nov	
	Childcare	repeated online after 3rd Nov	
	Land Use and Ownership	in person only	
17:30	Workshop ends		
19:00	Dinner at various restaurants		

<b>Thursday 2nd Nov</b>	09:00	Participants pick up packed lunch	
	09:30	Depart from Nevis Centre for STUDY VISITS	
		Study Visit 1: Population Renewal	Visits are in person only
		Study Visit 2: Transport systems	
		Study Visit 3: Culture	
		Study Visit 4: Wellbeing	
		Study Visit 5: Energy systems & community benefit	
		Study Visit 6: Community Led Tourism	
		Study Visit 7: Food systems in rural and island places	
		Study Visit 8: Circular economy	
	15:30	Return to Nevis Centre	
		Teas, coffees and cake served	
	16:00	Roundtables	
		Studio 1 - Community Led Local Development	invitation only
	Studio 2 - Cross border Roundtable	invitation only	
	Meeting Room - Community research protocols	invitation only	
16:00	General sessions		
	The Big Bowling Challenge		
	Film @the Screen Machine		
18:30	Gala Dinner and Dance		

Friday 3rd Nov	09:00	Arrival at Nevis Centre	
	09:30	Rural & Islands Futures Panel and Discussion Guests include the Deputy First Minister and the President of CoSLA	hybrid
	10:45	Break Teas, coffees and cake served	
	11:00	SRIP Synthesis Workshop (the last dance) Activity to shape the Delivery Plan and the review of the National Islands Plan	hybrid
	13:00	Lunch and close	

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