

COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS QUESTION & ANSWERS DOCUMENT

1. What are the workshops about?

These online introductory workshops are being planned as part of the review of Community Led Local Development, Scottish Rural Action and Scottish Rural Network that is being funded by the Scottish Government. You can find out more about the project [here](#).

These workshops are the first step in carrying out the fieldwork phase of this review during which we plan to visit and speak to people in different rural and island communities.

2. Why am I being invited to attend and how can I contribute?

This workshop is open to anyone living and/or working in Moray, Highland, the Outer Hebrides, Scottish Borders, Orkney and West Lothian with an interest in what happens in their local community.

We want to hear from people who are involved in community development as well as those who are not: you may volunteer for your village hall, be on the development trust, be a member of a Local Action Group, or have received funding from a Community Led Local Development fund.

Alternatively, you may not be involved at all, or know much (or indeed anything) about Community-Led Local Development, Scottish Rural Action or the Scottish Rural Network. We would still like you to come along and participate to understand your experiences as well.

The purpose of the workshop is for local people to shape our approach to fieldwork in these areas of Moray, Highland, Outer Hebrides, Scottish Borders, Orkney and West Lothian. We would like your help to identify the places in your area that we should focus on, which communities, groups and organisations we should speak to, and activities and initiatives we should know about.

3. What will happen in the workshops and how will you use my input?

The workshop is designed to be an opportunity for you to find out more about our research plans and share your views. It will last for one hour, and be held online on Zoom.

We will start by outlining the aims of the session and sharing information about the wider project. The main part of the workshop will give you the opportunity to tell us about your area and the groups or activities we should ask to take part in our fieldwork. We would like to speak to as many relevant people and organisations as possible, with a range of different levels and types of experience.

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You may find it easier to join using a laptop, computer or tablet rather than a phone, but we will consider accessibility needs and offer alternatives if required.

We will take notes during each workshop to help us to plan our research, but will not be recording it or including any direct quotes in project outputs. The notes will be shared with attendees afterwards and uploaded to the [project website](#).

4. What are the areas that you are focusing on and why?

We plan to focus on Highland, Moray, Orkney, the Outer Hebrides, West Lothian and the Scottish Borders. We chose these areas by taking into account characteristics including geography, population, governance, and Community Led Local Development activity.

People from other areas of rural and island Scotland are very much encouraged to be involved in the wider review, and there will be future opportunities to take part in surveys, interviews and focus groups. Find out more [here](#).

5. I can't make these workshop times - how can I get involved?

We have offered two times per area including one daytime and one evening time.

There is an additional workshop on Wednesday 30 April at 1pm which is open to anyone from any of these areas. If you would like to come and cannot make the sessions specific to the area you live in, please register for this final workshop [here](#).

We will share a note of the main feedback and suggestions from each workshop on the [project website](#). If you are unable to attend any of the online workshops, please get in touch via email (contact details below) if you wish to add anything.

6. When happens next?

Following the workshops, the research team will consider your suggestions and begin to organise fieldwork in each area. We will arrange interviews online and in-person, send out survey invitations and arrange focus groups. These will take place between May and September 2025.

7. Where can I find out more and/or get in touch?

Please visit our [website](#) for more information, and get in touch if you have any questions.

You can contact the project lead Jane Atterton, at jane.atterton@sruc.ac.uk and the fieldwork lead, Bobby Macaulay, at bobby.macaulay.perth@uhi.ac.uk

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