

**Update Number 4
December 2009**

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The Rural Direct team would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy Christmas and a successful New Year. We look forward to working with you in 2010. Our offices will be closed from Thursday 24th December through to Tuesday 5th January.



Community Services and Facilities option stays with Rural Priorities for now

It has been confirmed that Rural Priorities applications under the Community Services and Facilities option will not at present be transferred to the LEADER programmes as previously announced.

Further details are available here:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/farmingrural/SRDP/SRDNews/November2009>

Spring 2010 RPACs set

The effective submission deadline for Rural Priority applications to be considered at the March 2010 RPAC meetings has been set as January 11th.

Further details are available here:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/farmingrural/SRDP/SRDNews/October2009>

Scottish National Rural Network events schedule confirmed

A series of rural networking meetings have been scheduled for across rural Scotland. The dates and venues can be seen here:

<http://www.ruralgateway.org.uk/en/taxonomy/term/1630>.

Each event will include an update on rural funding streams, LEADER and Rural Priorities, as well as news of and discussion on the wider Scottish National Rural Network. There will be the chance to hear about a project from the local area, as well as one from another region of Scotland. There will also be a discussion session aimed at helping communities to explore what has worked well in the past and what lessons can be learned to springboard into future successes.

Rural Direct team members will be in attendance at each of the meetings when we look forward to offering advice and support to those communities seeking general funding advice and information on the SRDP in particular.

The first event took place in Rural Aberdeenshire in November and was a great success with over 60 people coming together for a day of information sessions and networking. See this link for further information:
<http://www.ruralgateway.org.uk/en/taxonomy/term/1299>.

Increased grant rates for 2010

Applications for projects under the Community Services and Facilities options which meet the appropriate January deadlines and information requirements can be assessed at the RPACs scheduled for March 2010. The new 90% grant rate announced by the Cabinet Secretary will apply. In addition, from 1st January 2010, LEADER Local Action Groups will have the facility to award up to 90 percent of eligible project costs instead of the current 50 percent intervention rate. See: <http://www.ruralgateway.org.uk/en/node/1578> for further information

The Rural Direct team

[Barbara Love](#) co-ordinates the service and is responsible for the Highlands and Islands

[Sheila Fraser](#) supports communities in Fife, Forth Valley, Lothian and Borders

[Ian Mathieson](#) works with communities in Argyll, Ayrshire, Clyde Valley, and Dumfries & Galloway

[Eleanor Morris](#) works with communities in Grampian, Moray and Tayside.

[Barbara Robertson](#) at Voluntary Action Orkney and [Wendy Hand](#) at Voluntary Action Shetland are the local contacts in the Northern Isles.

Other team members are Rural Development Officer [Sandra Hogg](#) and Rural Direct Administrator [Liz Syred](#). The service is managed by SCVO's Head of Rural Policy [Norman MacAskill](#).

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