



## Building Inclusive Rural Communities

## Rural Housing Service Annual Conference

### Conference Workshops

#### Community Action Planning

**Alan Caldwell, Alan Caldwell Associates**

Local people must be actively involved in determining their future and rising to the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Community Action Planning can help involve people, plan more effectively and organise themselves to make things happen. It can help communities to become more self sufficient and to look at how they move about; how they provide energy and food; how they provide workspaces for people who can fix things; how they entertain and look after one another. In other words, how they can build a resilient community. The workshop will look at inspiring examples of communities who are doing exactly this.

**Alan Caldwell** has approaching 30 years experience in community involvement and planning across the UK and Ireland. He runs a small practice working directly with local people and their partners to create a more sustainable future. Alan has established almost 60 community development trusts across the UK, 21 of them in rural Scotland. Land Reform and low carbon futures have dominated his recent work. Living in Comrie with his partner and three teenage daughters, Alan is a volunteer director of the Comrie Development Trust who has successfully purchased 96 acres of land on the edge of the village at Cultybraggan Army Camp.

#### Is HAG the only game in town, and what happens when the money runs out?

**Neil Clapperton, Director of Housing & Property Services, Grampian Housing Association**

Grampian Housing Association's project at Brimmond View in Dyce shows that an RSL making best use of its financial strength and partnership can build affordable housing without grant. The presentation explores the principles behind Grampian's funding model and how it can be made to work in rural areas.

Since starting in housing in 1989 **Neil Clapperton** has worked in just about every housing discipline and for various landlords; in local government and the voluntary sector. Apart from a brief stint in Edinburgh he has always had an involvement in rural housing. In addition to being Director of Housing & Property Services with Grampian Housing Association he has responsibility for business development and its no-subsidy affordable housing funding model pioneered at Brimmond View in Dyce.

#### Rural Housing Enablers in Wales

**David James, Rural Housing Enabler, Monmouthshire & South Powys**

**David James** has been Rural Housing Enabler for Monmouthshire and South Powys since January 2008. Prior to taking up this post, he spent ten months as coordinator of the South East Wales Regional Housing Forum followed by nine months in the Housing Strategy and Equality Team in the Welsh Assembly Government.

During his time as Rural Housing Enabler he has introduced new methods in an attempt to speed up the time it takes to deliver rural affordable housing. He has also been exploring ways to ensure rural development becomes more dispersed amongst settlements. David is currently Chair of the Midlands and Wales RHE Network.

## **“Thinking Rural” – rural proofing policy**

**Victoria Pymm, Senior Programme Advisor, Commission for Rural Communities**

**Victoria Pymm** from the Commission for Rural Communities (CRC) in England will introduce the concept of rural proofing, and outline how the CRC promotes rural proofing within the Government's mainstreaming agenda. The workshop will also provide an overview of the CRC's recently updated Rural Proofing Toolkit. The workshop will consider how rural proofing might be applied in Scotland and the lessons learned from the English experience.

Victoria is a Senior Programme Advisor to the Commission for Rural Communities' Rural Governance Team, focusing on engagement at the national level. She is currently Project Manager for the Rural Proofing Champions project, a joint CRC/DEFRA initiative which aims to encourage government organisations to imbed rural proofing within the policy making process. Previously, Victoria was a Committee Clerk, advising Standing Committees of the Upper House of NSW Parliament. Victoria has a Masters of Public Policy and a BA (Hons) from the University of Sydney.

## **Rural Housing Design**

**Neil Stephen, Dualchas Building Design**

Neil Stephen of award winning architects Dualchas Building Design will look at problems with developing rural communities, both in the provision of housing and the quality of the environment, and how good design can provide solutions.

Neil is a partner in Dualchas Building Design and a director of kit house company, Hebridean Contemporary Homes. He has been involved trying to find design-led solutions for rural housing need, and is a firm believer that good design should mean that we create beautiful communities that enhance, not spoil, our wonderful rural landscapes. He also writes features for [Scottisharchitecture.com](http://Scottisharchitecture.com).



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