

## Cultural workshop write-up

### What makes you excited about your local land – about the landscape, history, people, economic potential.....?

- Celebration of landscape excites people – how the landscape has changed
- The feeling of ‘no access’ to ‘sudden access’ to land
- Melting pot of expertise about land in the community
- Diversity and new people who want to be part of the community (people moving in because they love the place)
- Person from Dundee talked about how they’d fallen out of love with the city but with the new developments such as the V&A, they are getting their love for the city back
- Self-sufficient communities
- Celebrate food production – self sufficiency
- Potential for land to generate an income through renewable energy
- New opportunities for renewable energy that are coming through
- Not just about the land – also about the sea and the links between the land and the sea
- Are we losing our connection to the sea? We only think of land.
- The feeling that it’s ‘our land’
- We are a victim of our own success with tourism and don’t have enough facilities
- No consideration of the impact of tourist numbers – quality not quantity. (think they meant that there are a lot of tourists that come for one night when they’d prefer to have fewer that come and immerse themselves)

One group was very structured with their responses:

- Landscape: wildlife such as white-tailed eagles; coastal / maritime landscape; forest performance space; the view from hides; unusual geology. Using local rock for tracks.
- History: memory days, ancestry, hidden history
- People: whisky (this from Tomintoul and Glenlivet!), local book about farming, local paper, doric tradition, expertise in the community about ancestry, history of whisky etc
- Economic: timber income, Mull Eagle Watch – tourist income, forests, tourists interested in their ancestry, dark skies, wet weather activities for children, wild breeds, unusual tourist accommodation

### What would a national celebration of community land look like?

- Stories and a play (aimed at Scotland wide audience including cities) and a compilation of songs - very powerful when intertwined with community land stories
- New album
- A toured performance
- Something musical that could go out to village halls
- Poetry
- Storytelling
- A short film that could be toured with mobile cinemas – could be arranged through Scottish Screen?
- A drama series about community landownership
- A ‘Year of Communities’
- Bring in television archives
- New ‘Cheviot’ type play starting with North Assynt
- Commission a song

- Local competitions
- Sculpture – similar to land raid memorials
- Bring in landscape, history, people
- A community landowners' version of the North Coast 500 or get people to 'bag' CLS members
- Putting *people* back at the centre of the landscape
- Showing 'here's what used to be here' and here's what could be here in future (use of digital technology?)
- 'People in place' – telling everyone's stories
- Community landowner placements for students – skill-sharing
- Highlighting what happens when you have people – then no people – 'this is a ruined land'
- A tour of community landowners including a community landowner pontoon map
- A modern play that can be adapted for schools
- Linking areas of community land around the world by latitude
- National initiative for community regeneration – show what life used to be like here
- Discovery centre
- Regeneration Apps and headsets linking communities
- Creative commissions – song and poetry – an album
- Local musicians as patrons for communities
- A festival of 'native music'
- Inclusive festival with lots of things happening, coordinated by CLS
- A TV series about community owned estates in a similar format to 'The Mart'
- Outlander (not exactly sure what they meant by this!)
- Bothy nights
- Vlogs
- Case studies with tenant farmers
- Something at the Edinburgh Festival

#### **What would you want it to achieve?**

- Raising awareness
- Awareness outside the crofting areas
- A lasting legacy within the community itself
- Concept of community land better understood
- Confidence to other areas that they can buy land
- Youth engagement
- Improved links to and between communities
- Make urban / rural linkages
- Aim at those who are detached from land reform
- Becoming a good food nation
- Bring out traditional skills in young people that could be lost
- Information and culture sharing
- Spreading awareness through younger generation
- Adapting stories from oral history
- Widening the scope
- People have a better understanding of rural life
- Best practice in farming
- Empowerment of communities