

SCF New Year's Resolutions 2017

There are two 'legs' to SCF's work: **representation** and **development**.

Representation

The Scottish Crofting Federation is the only organisation dedicated to the representation of crofters and crofting. We have no other interest groups other than crofters and so lead on representing the crofting view in policy formation.

In 2017 we will continue to hold the Scottish Government to the SNP manifesto pledges which respond to the 'Five Actions for Crofting' issued by the Federation in the run-up to the Scottish elections. The five actions are:

Target Financial Incentives

Current and future post-brexit agricultural support policies must have a positive impact on crofting and must move away from shoring-up the out-dated and unsustainable large-scale industrial model, to using public money to pay for the delivery of public goods.

Simplify Crofting Legislation

The Committee of Inquiry on Crofting prioritised the need to make crofting legislation fit for purpose. This is unfinished business. This can only be done effectively with a new Act which Scottish Government has committed to take through Parliament in this session.

Make Crofts Available

Many people want to come into crofting and crofting needs in-comers, especially young folk. It is recognised that making existing crofts available is a long-term project so we will be taking the creation of new crofts, including woodland crofts, forward in 2017.

Increase Affordable Housing

We have already won a huge improvement to the Croft House Grant Scheme and the Scottish Government has promised to 're-introduce the Croft House Loan Scheme' we have campaigned for many years for.

Deliver Crofting Development

There must be a body given ministerial direction and funding to take responsibility for crofting development; it makes sense this body comes under the Crofting Commission. And after many years campaigning by SCF, Scottish Government has promised to publish a 'National Development Plan for Crofting'.

These are the priority areas for SCF advocacy work, but there are many other issues we will continue to work on in 2017 such as our petition in the Scottish Parliament on control of wild geese and the continued need for control of sea eagles.

Development

In 2017 SCF will continue to provide crofting skills training through our Crofting Skills Boost training project. Full details of training available can be found on our website, in our monthly e-newsletter and in The Crofter.

We aim to lead Crofting Connections, the project working with schools to promote the crofting way of life, into a new phase in 2017. Funding is being sought.

We will have renewed promotion of the Scottish Crofting Produce mark and Crofting Tourism initiatives in 2017.