

## COMMITTEE TO CONSULT CROFTING COMMUNITIES AGAIN

The Committee of Inquiry on Crofting has arranged a series of public meetings at locations around Scotland to share its developing vision for the future of crofting in Scotland and discuss a number of outstanding issues.

A detailed report and recommendations will be presented by the Committee to Scottish Ministers in April. The meetings will help the Committee as it moves towards final recommendations and will ensure that people with an interest in crofting continue to be involved with the Committee's work.

At the meetings, Committee members will discuss the vision set out in its paper - Towards the Future of Crofting - which outlines key research findings, the Committee's developing vision and a number of areas where further consideration and input is requested from the public.

The Committee, which began its work in May 2007, has gathered evidence through a variety of methods to help it formulate its vision, including a series of public meetings last year, a call for evidence and a public attitudes survey.

Chairman of the Committee of Inquiry on Crofting, Professor Mark Shucksmith said: "The Committee has heard the views of thousands of people and a number of organisations over the past months and we are getting closer to reaching a set of recommendations for the Scottish Government.

"At the start of our work, we committed to maintaining the involvement of crofting communities and other members of the public and we now want more discussion with the public to help us with a number of issues which have arisen in the course of the Inquiry and that we are still considering.

"I hope as many people as possible are able to come along to one of our meetings. However, if a meeting is not taking place locally, people are encouraged to provide a response to the issues in writing."

The Towards the Future of Crofting paper will be available on the Committee's website ([www.croftinginquiry.org](http://www.croftinginquiry.org)) from **Monday 4 February**. Responses to the issues still under discussion should be submitted to the Committee by **Thursday 28 February**.

-ends-

### Notes to editors:

- Public meetings have been arranged for the following dates and venues:
  - 11 February Astley Hall, **ARISAIG** (6pm for 6:30pm)
  - 12 February Broadford Hotel, **SKYE** (6pm for 6:30pm)
  - 19 February Craigmorie Hotel, **INVERNESS** (6pm for 6:30pm)

- 20 February                      Shetland Hotel, **LERWICK** (6:30pm  
for 7pm)
  - 26 February                      Caberfeidh Hotel, **STORNOWAY** (6pm  
for 6:30pm)
- The Committee of Inquiry on Crofting was set up to identify a vision for the future of crofting, particularly in relation to sustaining and enhancing the population; improving economic vitality; safeguarding landscape and biodiversity and sustaining cultural diversity.
  - The Committee's report of the Inquiry will be presented to Scottish Ministers in spring 2008.

**Issued by Barkers on behalf of the Committee of Inquiry on Crofting**

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