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FAO: LOCAL REPORTERS

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494 SCOTTISH COMMUNITY GROUPS REAP BENEFITS OF LAND REFORM

New Scottish Parliament Information Centre (SPICe) figures reveal 12 community groups in Fife now own their own land.

Just under 500 community groups in Scotland have benefited from the SNP's progressive land reform policies that help enable communities control their own destiny. While the majority of beneficiaries are in rural areas, it is important to note the extension of the £10m Scottish Land Fund beyond rural communities to help urban communities buy community assets.

The SNP Government is well on its way to reaching the One Million Acres of Community Ownership target by 2020.

Commenting, SNP MSP David Torrance for the Kirkcaldy constituency said:

“While it's fantastic that Scotland's ground breaking land reform has brought over half a million acres of land into community ownership - it's even more impressive when you consider the human impact of this reform with nearly 500 community groups now in charge of their own destiny in Scotland.

“People are well and truly at the heart of the SNP's land reform efforts that enable communities to thrive and make decisions about places that would often otherwise be lying derelict – and this is at the very heart of our community empowerment strategy that is aiming to make Scotland a more prosperous and fairer place to live.

“In Fife, land reform has empowered 12 community groups to bring community assets into community ownership. In my constituency land reform empowered The Ecology Centre in Kinghorn to purchase the land which now houses their centre and grounds, and Greener Kirkcaldy to purchase a building which allowed them to take forward their Community Food Hub project. Land ownership is vital to projects like these because without it, it's impossible to be able to make improvements and reap the benefits.

“Anything we can do to reverse the depopulation trend in Scotland and encourage more people to live and work in Scottish communities should be encouraged, especially in the face of a damaging Tory hard Brexit. And land reform is a key vehicle to do this and to build stronger, more sustainable and attractive communities across Scotland.”

ENDS

Notes:

SPICe figures have revealed that in total - 494 community groups in Scotland now own land. Sizes range from 0.01 acres to 92,000 acres. Below is a breakdown by local authority area:

Aberdeenshire	26
Angus	2
Argyll & Bute	77
Clackmannanshire	2
Comhairle nan Eilean Siar	41
Dumfries & Galloway	18
East Ayrshire	12
East Dunbartonshire	1
East Lothian	4
East Renfrewshire	1
Edinburgh	5
Fife	12
Glasgow	16
Highland	124
Inverclyde	7
Midlothian	6
Moray	28
North Ayrshire	17
North Lanarkshire	3
Orkney	23
Perth & Kinross	17
Scottish Borders	17
Shetland	14
South Ayrshire	2
South Lanarkshire	6
Stirling	6
West Dunbartonshire	4
West Lothian	3
Grand Total	494

CONTACT DETAILS

Zoe Hisbent

Office Manager for David Torrance MSP

E-mail: zoe.hisbent@parliament.scot

Phone: 01592 200349