

Scottish Allotments and Gardens Society
ANNUAL SCOTTISH ALLOTMENTS CONFERENCE
21st CENTURY ALLOTMENTS

WORKSHOPS REPORTS:

3. Setting up new sites –land, leases & action

Sam Murray (SAGS)

Approx. 18 people attending.

Attendees identified their sites and concerns or experience that can be shared

1. *Nairn* said that his site was owned by the Common Good Fund of Highland Council. He said it was extremely difficult to get a lease out of them. He said that there a boom in house building in all of the coastal towns of Moray Coast, small houses were being built, with small gardens. There is no, or little, provision of allotments at present.
2. *Merrylee Allotments*, Glasgow, a privately run site, said there were presently about 20 on the waiting list at his site.
3. *Cupar in Fife* reported Education Department support, 30 plots, five years to run.
4. *Forth Environment Link* in Stirling talked about Community Composting projects. He gave examples of what was involved and explained different types. One working example was in the Colinton area of Edinburgh, in this case the Project collected the green waste. In other cases, the Local Authority delivered the contents of brown bins.
5. *West Fife* council employee involved with existing allotments and faced pressure to get new ones (but had no new sites).
6. *Carnoustie* reported that an allotment association had been formed and that they were going to meet with the Lead Officer of Angus Council on next Monday morning.
- 7) *Highland Council* - The officer reported that had few allotments but would like to have more.
- 8) *West Kilbride*. are working out a tenancy agreement with a land –owner for a field.

General issues that arose:

- a) The position of the Scottish Land Fund and what it can and cannot do needs clarification
- b) A model agreement for leasing space from a farmer/landowner is needed to help negotiations