**Rewriting the Rulebook of Landownership**

**Western Isles Community Roundtable, Stornoway, 20-21 April 2016**

The project hosted the first of its three community roundtables in April, for the Western Isles in Stornoway.

The purpose of the roundtables is to bring together a cross-section of community landowners and through loosely directed questioning, collect their experiences and ideas about how outcomes from community owned land might best be appraised.

We had a great range of community landowners around the table – from well-established owners, to one who had successful purchased their estate only six days previously! We were delighted to welcome:

* Duncan Macpherson, from the West Harris Trust: http://www.westharristrust.org
* David Cameron, from the North Harris Trust: http://www.north-harris.org
* Sally Reynolds, Development Officer at the Carloway Estate: http://www.communitylandscotland.org.uk/members/carloway-estate-trust/
* Iain MacIver, factor for the Stornoway Trust, the oldest community landowner in Scotland, having been constituted in 1923: www.stornowaytrust.org.uk
* Hector MacLeod, from Storas Uibhist, and chief executive of Third Sector Hebrides: http://www.storasuibhist.com
* And the ‘new boy’ at the table was Ivan Brown, Business Manager for Urras Oighreachd Bharabhais, which was purchased by the community only a week previous to our roundtable! http://www.communitylandscotland.org.uk/members/urras-sgire-oighreachd-bharabhais/

We also interviewed three other community landowners, part of a programme of eight interviews, which will give us a further rich evidence base for our consideration as to how best to appraise community owned land.

Our interviewees were:

* Duncan Macpherson, from the West Harris Trust: http://www.westharristrust.org
* Iain MacIver, factor for the Stornoway Trust, the oldest community landowner in Scotland, having been constituted in 1923: www.stornowaytrust.org.uk
* Agnes Rennie and Carola Bell from Urras Oighreachd Ghabhsainn