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PRESS RELEASE

Rural Awards scheme extends entry deadline after enthusiastic engagement.

Following a flood of entries at the Royal Highland Show and GWCT Game Fair, Scottish Land & Estates has announced it will extend the deadline for its Helping it Happen awards entries in all categories to Friday 20th July.

SLE Executive Director, Sarah-Jane Laing commented:

“We are delighted with the high number of entries received to date, and hope we can convince many more rural business from all sectors to share their stories of business and community success. We created the Helping it Happen campaign to try to increase awareness of the many instances of landowners and businesses working with communities and others to deliver a huge range of positive activity from employment creation to educational opportunities and local conservation projects.”

Scottish Land & Estates created the Awards in 2017 in recognition of the contribution made by rural businesses to all aspects of their local communities. Entries from diversified farm businesses, commercial enterprises, estate and land-based businesses, community partnerships and many more have been submitted for judging to the panel of experienced business owners and sector leaders.

The Awards categories cover tourism, education, housing, innovation, conservation and the environment, and invite the general public to nominate a relevant business as well as direct nominations from entrepreneurs and owners. Judging criteria centre around the involvement, impact and effect of a business on its local community, with the aim of demonstrating the extent of these positive outcomes throughout rural Scotland.

The Awards will be judged over the summer and presented at a gala event at the Balmoral Hotel in Edinburgh on the evening of Wednesday 3rd October, 2018.

Previous winner Errichel House & Cottages commented:

“The 2017 Awards ceremony was a superb event and the crowded room demonstrated the support for the nominated rural businesses and also for the SLE Helping it Happen initiative, which actively promotes the role of estate and land-based businesses as major contributors to the Scottish economy, industry and national image.”

The organisers are delighted with the high number of entries to the second year of the Awards and are hopeful that the campaign will continue to gain traction and achieve its goal of gaining recognition for the significance of rural enterprises in Scotland.

Entries are open to all rural businesses can be submitted online at www.helpingithappen.co.uk

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Notes to editors:

- The Helping it Happen Awards www.helpingithappen.co.uk are run by Scottish Land & Estates www.scottishlandandestates.co.uk. The Awards were founded in 2017.
- The Helping it Happen campaign aims to highlight how landowners and rural businesses across Scotland play a key role in enabling and supporting success in rural areas. This campaign provides case studies covering a diverse range of sectors, including examples such as providing affordable rural housing, the development of renewable energy schemes and partnerships with local schools to deliver rural skills qualifications. For more information, visit www.helpingithappen.co.uk.
- The members of Helping It Happen Awards judging panel are: Simon Power (Estate Manager, MacRobert Trust); Nina Clancy (Chief Executive, RSABI); Alan Laidlaw (Chief Executive, RHASS); David Whiteford (Chair, North Highland Initiative); Lucy Beattie (Owner, Leckmelm Estate); and Julia Latto (Project Manager in the Rural Operations Team, Scottish Enterprise).
- Scottish Land & Estates is a membership organisation for landowners, rural businesses and rural professionals. Scottish Land & Estates promotes the wide range of benefits land-based businesses provide: tourist attractions, leisure facilities and landscapes enjoyed by the public, as well as, housing, employment, tourism & enterprise and farming opportunities. For more information, visit www.scottishlandandestates.co.uk
- The Helping it Happen Awards and Scottish Land & Estates welcome approaches from journalists. Please contact kate@sceneandherdpr.co.uk 07843021813 for further information.