

North Ronaldsay Development Manager

Summary

North Ronaldsay is the most northerly of the islands in the Orkney Archipelago. The population is in decline and aging, to ensure the survival of the island therefore, there is a need to attract new residents and to improve facilities and amenities on the island.

There has been ongoing consultation within the community to identify priorities for development, starting with a questionnaire, followed by a presentation of the survey results, culminating in the completion of the Island Development Plan, which outlines immediate and longer-term priorities to assist in ensuring the long term economic and social sustainability of the island.

The plan cannot, however, be implemented by the voluntary Trustees alone, therefore, a part time Community Development Manager (CDM) is needed to lead the projects identified.

A summary of the project aims are:

By implementing the CDM project the Trust aims to achieve an increase in population, with economic growth through a variety of industries: farming, tourism, crafts, food & drink, cosmetic.

- Initially the Trust plan to have an increase in available housing thereby increasing the population, and the possibility of the school being used.
- The Trust are aware of funding through NILPS which could cover the costs of a dyke worker or/and Ranger, again increasing the population.
- Projects such as the Nest Building project would deliver small work units for a variety of trades, creating employment opportunities and economic growth. Similarly at the centre of the Nest building is the wool mill which has a variety of by products which if utilised could potentially increase turnover and the number of workers.
- The Island has wind energy that could be investigated to ensure that the energy is being utilised in the most effective way, this could be heating, used for producing products, recharging batteries for visiting cars and bikes.
- The benefits from an increase in population will create a more sociable vibrant community and with the potential of additional employment a more prosperous community. Ultimately the main objective would be to leave a legacy of a self-sustaining community being part of a larger network of islands in Orkney.

The project includes the following elements:

Financial Information	£	%
Total Project Costs	41,507.97	
Total Eligible Costs	41,507.97	100
LEADER	20,749.97	49.99
Orkney Island Council/ Highlands and Islands Enterprise	9,341.00	45.01
Own Funds	2,076.00	5