

Stromness Town House Garden Improvements

Area – Stromness

Summary

This project will see the construction of an outdoor multipurpose community space within the heart of Stromness. The space which is currently laid to lawn is presumed to be closed to the public, gated and only accessible by a large number of steps, underutilised as a consequence.

During festivals a temporary stage structure is erected in the space, however, the stage is coming to the end of its useful life. The requirement to find a more permanent solution has provided an opportunity to consider a better use of the space. In consultation with the community, main and potential stage users a design for a new multipurpose community area has been developed by Stromness Community Council. A survey on the design and use of the area was carried out at a Sustainable Stromness event held by the Community Council which demonstrated the communities' desire was to have an area which was open to all for utilisation.

The construction of the space will incorporate stone paving to complement the surrounding historic setting, seating and planting beds. This will create a community area in the town centre which will be open to casual use year round by the public as a space to relax. An easy to erect, removable canopy will allow the area to be used as a performance space for cultural events, encouraging footfall in the town.

Providing an attractive area which can be utilised by festivals and events and for people to linger within the town will encourage more people to spend time in the town centre. Whilst in the town they may visit the local shops, cafes and hotels, which would result in economic benefits for the town.

A summary of project aims are:

To provide a multipurpose community space, which will encourage people to spend longer in the town centre and attract visitors to the area, leading to social and economic benefits for Stromness.

To achieve a sustainable town centre requires people to work, visit and live within it. An integral part of attracting people to the town centre is having attractive, accessible and safe areas which allow people to relax. This project seeks to provide such an area, by creating an innovative community space in the town centre, which is off the street and so away from the passing traffic. By encouraging people to spend longer in the town centre, enjoying their surroundings, it is anticipated this will aid social cohesion.

Cultural activities, such as the many festivals which take place, also add to the social cohesion in the town, engaging the community and enlivening the town centre, bringing additional footfall and money into the town. Having a permanent stage space will enable further festivals and events to take place, bringing benefits for the surrounding businesses and allowing the community to benefit from further cultural activities. In addition to planned festivals and events, clubs and societies will also

benefit from a space in which they can use on an ad hoc basis to showcase the talents of their members.

Financial Information	£	%
Total Project Costs	118,988.38	
Total Eligible Costs	91,981.75	
LEADER	45,990.87	50
Orkney Islands Council	45,306.08	49.26
Applicant's Own Funds	684.80	0.74