

Stronsay Development Trust

Open Meeting regarding the Development Plan on 14 July 2011 at the Stronsay Community Hall 19.30 Approved Minutes

Present: Julia Crocker (Chair) Cora Goodram Karen Griffin (Vice Chair)
 Lisa De Geer (Secretary) Sara Goodram Yvonne Weaver
 Anthony Withers (CDO/TDO)

Apologies: Nina Gleed

In Attendance: Gail Anderson (VAO) and 18 members of the public.

1. Welcome by Gail Anderson (Deputy Chief Executive of Voluntary Action Orkney)

Gail Anderson thanked the Stronsay Development Trust for inviting her to facilitate the open meeting. She pointed out that the trust is going through exciting times with big things ahead with the Wind Turbine Project.

She gave a short explanation of the agenda and told the public that the purpose of the meeting was to get the community's view on the SDT Development Plan.

2. Introduction by Julia Crocker (Chair of Stronsay Development Trust)

Julia Crocker thanked Gail Anderson and Voluntary Action Orkney for coming to Stronsay to facilitate the meeting and for the support they have given us over the years.

Julia drew briefly on the two previous development plans and explained that in many ways the strategy and the community views remain broadly similar to today; all highlighting the need for improvement of the island's economy, youth facilities, preservation of heritage and improved cultural activities. The previous plans were strong on strategy but lacked action plans.

Many positive things have been achieved that were not in the 2007 plan, Powerdown and the community greenhouse for example. However, some things the Trust hasn't been able to achieve, through lack of funding and volunteer effort, Since 2004 a big stumbling block has been lack of accommodation for a heritage centre, youth facility, offices or increased business opportunities. Now it is time to refocus on what the Trust should prioritise for the future.

Last year there was an open meeting and HIE undertook a postal survey to get the community's input for the new development plan. Julia Crocker gave a short explanation about the new development plan with its objectives and achievables. The Enterprise Zone and the Affordable Warmth Project are funded by Big Lottery and have already started. It is important to know that these funds are restricted to specific outcomes and put simply we cannot use this money for anything else. The profit from the community turbine will be gift aided to the Trust which means that we shall not be

so dependent on outside funding, and the Trust might be able to achieve some of the things on the “wish list” as well as support other community groups on the island. At the moment the Trust is working on the process of how to grant funds from this turbine income.

3. Group Discussions about various aspects of the Development Plan

Gail Anderson (VAO) stressed that the Trust is already working on several topics. A lot of things do not happen, but there is a lot of work behind the things that do happen. A lot of community groups are seeking to raise their own income from social enterprise and this is being supported by the Scottish Government. Gail Anderson said that SDT is well ahead and have done a tremendous job.

Gail Anderson advised that the governance of the Turbine revenue will be left out of this meeting since this will be brought up at a later occasion.

Ian Hockley, member of the Trust, asked who the SDT is accountable to. Gail Anderson answered that there are a lot of different groups; examples were members of SDT, Stronsay community, funders and legislators.

Gail Anderson divided the audience into three groups. Each group discussed a certain given section of the development plan and wrote down suggestions and comments on a piece of paper.

4. Refreshments

5. Conclusions

Gail Anderson summarised the three groups comments and suggestions as follow:

Group 1 - Economy

- Good that the Community Wind Turbine is on schedule.
- A published list of Board of Directors of the Stronsay Renewable Energy Ltd is asked for.
- Anthony Withers is doing an excellent TDO job with five islands working together. Build on this cooperation for future projects.
- There are differences of opinion regarding the Enterprise Zone. An assessment of demand needs to be done following on from the feasibility study.
- Fuel poverty – a wish for consultation to continue.
- Investigate in a tourism project. A ranger is needed!
- Insulation for solid walls – let local employees get trained.
- Investigate start up support for private enterprise – rules and criteria.
- Investigate possibility for co-operatives – “local facilities”
- Stronsay needs businesses which can be formed and then employ further local people – encouragement for local islanders

Group 2 – Youth, Culture, Heritage and Environment

- Sheltered housing is needed.
- Recycling centre – good plan, but what does that involve.
- More explanation and clarification of proposals
- Wish for the Trust to be more open.
- Wish for an open meeting to discuss problems as discussed at the AGM.
- A youth drop in centre could affect the current youth club negatively, but opens up to other possibilities.
- What would a ranger do (role description)?

Group 3 – Infrastructure and Housing

- Liaise with school/sports groups. Work closer with community groups, Stronsay Community Council and the Stronsay Community Association. Financially support all community groups.
- Better communication. User friendly website, regularly updated. Ask for community contributors.
- Offer different levels of sheltered housing. Live in warden and community lounge.
- Gateway house – needs more investigation and discussion.

Gail Anderson closed the meeting saying that through an open discussion with rational arguments and constructive criticism Stronsay will succeed.

Meeting Closed at 22.00