

APRIL 2010

The month prior to the AGM is always a busy one for the Committee and I hope that this effort will be rewarded by a huge turnout! The reporting period that the AGM covers was during William Caithness's watch as Development Officer so he will be reporting to members at the meeting. However I will be available after the meeting to answer any questions about what is going on to date (which is a bit harsh as he's a hard act to follow!)

Funding is now in place to begin the first steps to purchasing the Haulage Yard and Light Haulage side of Jim Holland's business. The land has been surveyed as has the Lobster Shed which is separately owned but also forms part of our plans for the Enterprise Zone. An architect is also on board as are other cogs in the wheel to make this thing happen.

I envisage that a public meeting will be called in June for all to see the plans and to answer any questions or concerns people may have. I would like to take this opportunity to dismiss any concerns expressed in some quarters that I will be running the Haulage Company. That is not the role of the CDO. My role is to facilitate the purchase, planning and funding of the project. Once this Community Interest Company is established it will be self managed as a proper business with profits made being either used to improve/maintain the service or to be passed onto the Trust to support other community projects.

On the Enterprise Zone it is planned to create five business units. I have had two firm notices of interest in these so if the idea of a brand spanking new business unit sounds like an opportunity for you let me know in complete confidence.

There are exciting times ahead for the development of Stronsay over the next five years. I have been charged with the task of producing the next development plan this year. The turbine means that this is no longer a wish list but a can do/will do list for the future. It will also reflect a joined up approach with input from our community partners, such as the Community Council and the Community Association.