

MAY 2010

Hello All,

It has been a busy month for the Trust what with the AGM and much work being done on the Turbine project.

To date Julia and I have been flitting back and forth to Kirkwall attending several meetings with our fellow island 'Turbineers' to iron out the way forward as regards tenders for project management, construction, bank finance and due diligence that are required to be put into place prior to the actual site work starting. A huge amount of work is involved in a +£1.5 million pound project and our job is to ensure we have the right technical, legal and financial support in place. Next month in my jottings I will set out a rough timescale of events up to the blades turning for your information.

With reference to the Enterprise Zone the Architect has made a site inspection and we are looking forward to receiving outline plans that we will share with you at a public meeting as soon as we can.

The Mother and Toddler group have approached me to find funding to replace worn out equipment and a day trip. With their input we will jointly put a strong case together to secure said funding.

Some concern has been expressed with regard to the new Fast Ferry service. I have asked for a quote from the Project Leaders, Eday Partnership and this is their response. Clive Brooks, Chair of Eday Trust, said :

"The long awaited and much anticipated North Isles Fast Ferry is due to take her berth in Stronsay harbour shortly, Celtic Voyager is a custom built 11 metre passenger cabin Rib. She is licensed to carry 12 passengers and two crew, fitted with all the necessary safety equipment and is MCA Coded Category 3, which means she is considered totally safe and reliable for service up to 20 miles from a safe haven and is fit for night passage.

She is powered by twin 300 horse power Suzuki engines and has a cruising speed of 25 knots with a top speed of 40 knots, she is also fitted with two of everything that is required for navigation, VHF radios etc., and of course a life raft and life jackets are supplied to all passengers on boarding.

Celtic Voyager will be paying courtesy visits to the three North Isles she will be serving on Saturday June 5th and will be in the harbour from 9.00am until 11.00am for you to come along and have a look over her, time permitting, there may be the opportunity to take a short trip on her.

This service is designed to complement the Orkney Ferries service which

is an essential lifeline service and excellent as it allows little opportunity for inter isles travel for both locals and visitors alike, it will be a Summer only service, there is a published timetable (insert in the Orcadian, May 27th.) but this may be subject to change, as this is a pilot project and demand may dictate some alterations. Booking your ticket is advisable, and you can do this by 'phoning 616339, we are also going to have an 'update' service on Twitter so that people can be informed of any extra sailings or special offers etc. at short notice.

The vessel will also be available for charter, both community (discounted) and commercial and it is hoped to be able to offer further discounts for community use from any profits made on the commercial business.

So in a nutshell, it's a service for the North Isles communities, run by the community with the aim of improving the social and economic activity between the isles, safe and reliable,...and oh! Yes, quite fast."

Thanks to Clive for his response and I hope we will all support this pilot project and see it becomes a permanent summer fixture. Below is a photo of the vessel the service will be using.

