

Our 2008-9 Development Plan builds upon the foundations set down in earlier versions. Our aim is to carry forward substantive projects that will bring us closer to achieving our vision of "Shapinsay, a place where...

Our local environment is protected, enhanced and enjoyed by all;

This island culture remains distinct from the Orkney mainland; Renewable energy sources and technologies enable us to become energy self-sufficient;

The population is balanced and economically active; We are well served by transport links;

We enjoy the highest quality of essential services; Our heritage, birds and wildlife are protected. Children and adults thrive within the community

Thus we intend to ensure the sustainability of our life here on Shapinsay

The Development Plan is a strategic document which outlines the key areas for project development over the coming year. It also gives a summary of the work of the Trust over the previous twelve months, and the policies applied by the Trust in selecting projects and carrying out its work. The Development plan is reviewed annually each summer so that the current version can be presented to the Community at the AGM in September.

It has to be recognised that the areas in which the Trust can be active are governed by the memorandum and articles of association which make up the Trust's constitution. It equally has to be recognised that there are other constituted

organisations with a very strong interest in achieving aims similar to those of the Trust. Following constitutional changes approved at the 2007 AGM the Trust is now working in active partnership with the Community Association, the Community Council and the Heritage Trust. True to effective partnerships everywhere, as determined by relative strengths and spheres of influence, sometimes the Trust leads and sometimes it supports and follows.

Business in 2007-8

The big story over the last year has been the Community owned wind turbine proposal. A lot of work was put in by the Trust and its partners, led by the Highlands and Islands Community Energy Company (HICEC) in this instance, prior to putting the proposal to the Community at the public meeting held in February 2008. In the postal vote held in conjunction with this meeting the Community gave overwhelming support for the proposal. The income generated by a Community owned wind turbine represents the most exciting opportunity for the Community of Shapinsay to take control over its own destiny.

After receiving the Community's approval the Trust has submitted a full planning application and is in the process of sourcing grant funding for the project. As the capital amounts involved are significant the grant application process is complex and takes up considerable time.

The winter was a period of upheaval for the Trust with a number of changes at Board level. Funding for the development worker expired in November 2007 and wasn't recovered until Spring 2008. The lack of a paid resource for the Trust seriously limits the scale of its activities.

Spring and summer 2008 has been a period of consolidation for the Trust. Continuing on from work initiated in 2007 the Trust are revising policies and procedures to ensure that the Trust can conduct its business effectively and in a transparent and democratic manner. As part of this process the Trust intends to present and explain these changes to the Community and offer support and training to those residents

of Shapinsay who want to play a part in the work of the Trust. Given the challenges presented by the prospect of the Community owned wind turbine the Trust intends to continually review the skills and procedures required to manage the business of the Trust. When necessary training will be secured so as to establish the capacity within the Community of Shapinsay. If that is not possible then our partnership network will be engaged or extended.

The other major piece of work undertaken in 2007, with the assistance of HIE Orkney, was the skills survey. This survey produced a lot of very useful information and, following the appointment of the Community Development worker in May, on a twelve month contract, the Trust is now in a position to act upon it.

Project Summary

1. Recreational facilities and Social Welfare

Young People

Ongoing projects:

Creation of a Challenge, Adventure and Recreation Park

Part-time Youth Development worker

Creation of a Nature Trail

Unfortunately both funding applications made over the winter failed so we are in the process of reviewing the projects as to how best they can be taken forward. The Trust realises that there is a great deal of support for these projects within the Community as evidenced by the donations and the funds secured from within Shapinsay.

Estimated timescale to completion 18 months

Whole Community

Projects to be Initiated

Island Hub to provide respite care during the day and relaxed, social drop in facilities for all age groups during the evening.

Estimated timescale to completion:

Use existing building – 2 years

New build- 10 years

Community Bus

In partnership with the Community Association replace existing bus and establish a dial-a-bus service.

Estimated timescale to completion: 3 years

Projects to be Investigated

Establishment of a Care home here on Shapinsay for elderly residents.

In partnership with the Scottish Ambulance Service to look at improvements in ambulance provision.

2. Education

Ongoing projects

Skills and training:

In the skills survey a number of residents indicated a desire to learn a range of arts and crafts. In order to determine which course could be viable we intend, in partnership with the Community Association to hold a taster day. Those interested would be given the opportunity to meet teachers, both from Shapinsay and other parts of Orkney, and try out a particular art or craft and indicate which they would like to spend the winter learning. It is intended that this evolves into an annual event to show people what activities are available over the winter here on the island

Estimated time scale: Courses to start January 2009. The Community's interest in such training to be reassessed annually.

Projects to be initiated

Act as an information point and facilitator to encourage and support island residents in taking up vocational training.

Estimated time scale: Information point established via the website January 2009. Facilitator: dependent on provision of island hub.

In partnership with the Fire brigade and the Scottish Ambulance service provide training to ensure that the community has residents capable of continuing these essential services.

Estimated time scale: training to be provided by January 2012 and training requirements to be reviewed annually thereafter.

Act as a coordinator for people wanting to attend evening classes on mainland

Estimated time scale: ongoing

3. Natural & Cultural Environment

Ongoing Projects

Wind Turbine: Planning permission has been applied for and the process to secure grant funding has been initiated.

Estimated time scale to completion: Summer 2011

Create a glossy guide to Shapinsay to enhance the visitor experience of Shapinsay's heritage and environment.. Further development of this project has been ongoing. Funding in order to produce this guide needs to be secured.

Estimated time scale to completion: Spring 2009

New interpretation boards and signage have been installed at Burroughston Broch

Restoration of the Douche: the Community Council provided seed corn funding to pay for the surveyors fees. The project awaits his report.

Core path network: Work needs to be done to establish clearly the situation on Shapinsay and what is necessary to move this project forwards.

4. Housing

Projects to be investigated

Assess the feasibility of the Trust owning a house within a development by Orkney Housing Association on Shapinsay for the purpose of letting it to our own young folk who are wanting to establish independent living on Shapinsay.

5 Poverty

Projects to be initiated

Fuel Poverty: Organise a visit by the Energy Efficiency Office in Winter 2008/9. Investigate the availability of grants for energy audits and improvements to the energy efficiency of houses. Support residents in their application for the same.

Estimated time scale: ongoing

6. Promote Trade and Industry
Projects to be initiated

Support the Community Council in its lobbying to maintain and improve existing links with mainland Orkney and in its work to achieve better integration with transport systems on mainland Orkney and on to mainland UK.

Estimated time scale: Ongoing

Various recycling initiatives to be explored in order to generate an income stream for the Trust and other benefits to the Community of Shapinsay

Estimated time scale to completion: Autumn 2012

Projects to be investigated

Establishing a web based guide to Shapinsay businesses

Establishing how the Trust can provide support to the agricultural businesses on the island particularly in the forthcoming CAP reforms

Establish a business incubator and support service