

FETLAR COMMUNITY

Development Plan

A LIVING DOCUMENT

It is intended that this be a "living document" and will be updated as goals are reached and when changes are required, so as to best reflect the progress made on the island and of the aspirations of the Fetlar community.

Community consultation events will be held at least once per year to seek input from the community, but the community should feel free to put forward ideas and suggestions at any time relating to the content of this plan.

Any changes will be considered as draft until the updated plan is ratified by the community.



FETLAR DEVELOPMENTS LTD

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This plan has been produced in consultation with the community of Fetlar to guide the future development of the island

Introduction



This updated development plan, introduced in September 2013, aims to give direction to future work to help develop the island. Building on the very successful start which has been made over the past few years, in bringing the island, back from near terminal depopulation.

It is based on extensive community consultation and represents the needs and aspirations of the Community as a whole. Building on work which has already met a number of the communities priorities, it reflects the significant changes which have taken place since the first development plan was written. Reaffirming those priorities which have still to be met and those new ones which have been identified.

It will be used to guide the work of Fetlar Developments Ltd and the other organisations who have a crucial role in supporting island life.

There will be regular ongoing reviews to update the plan to as well as possible represent the needs of the Community.

INDEX

01 - Front cover	13 - Action Chart
02 - Introduction & index	14 - Renewables & energy saving
03 - Background	15 - Brough Lodge Trust
04 - Achievements	16 - Textiles & Crafts
05 - Achievements (cont.)	17 - Housing
06 - Economic Development	18 - Care & Medical
07 - Transport	19 - Fetlar Museum Trust
08 - Pier & breakwater	20 - Community areas/ Leisure
09 - Tourism	21 - Fetlar Fire Service
10 - IT & Broadband	22 - Education
11 - Crofting and Farming	23 - Marketing & promotion
12 - Action Chart	24 - Back cover

Marketing and promotion

WEBSITE

The website created for the island at www.fetlar.org has been successful in informing both visitors and prospective residents. The mailing list now runs to several hundred subscribers. The website is being continually developed to reflect local developments.



The webcam which was supplied by promote Shetland and which was one of the most popular items on the website has recently failed. As the webcam is an excellent promotional tool seeking funding for a suitable replacement must be a high priority.

The support of an intern allowed the development for the website of a media area with press packs, which are supplemented by information sheets on specialist areas e.g. The red necked phalarope

NEWSLETTER

Fetlar Developments continue to produce regular newsletters at approx. quarterly intervals. these are circulated locally and to the website mailing list.

A full list of all newsletters is also available for download from the website.

FETLAR BOOKLET

Virtually all of these have now been distributed. An updated version is available from the website. A more comprehensive Fetlar guide book could provide an income stream for anyone taking this forward.

MAPS AND INFORMATION

The RSPB assisted by FDL & Fetlar Museum Trust have for 2012 produced posters and a leaflet incorporating a map, information on Wildlife, and Responsible Access. These are now widely available throughout Shetland.

Volunteers from the RSPB compiled during a sabbatical the information required to produce a map with information of the various walks on Fetlar. This is to be taken forward by the RSPB in cooperation with FMT. The maps should be available in 2014.

Further marketing and promotional effort will be available through the Fetlar Tourism Development Initiative

ACTIONS

Continue to market and promote Fetlar through as many mediums as possible making the best use of any funding available.

Education

Fetlar Primary School has now fully reopened after operating as a nursery for the 2010-2011 school year, due to a year during which there were no school age children. Regrettably, because of temporary closure of the Primary department, the school cook was made redundant resulting in the loss of an important local employment opportunity.

As of September 2013 there are 7 pupils at Fetlar Primary school. There is the current possibility of several more children of primary age or below, arriving in the next 12 months. However without a ongoing number of incoming families or new births on the island, the roll will decrease in the medium term, as pupils move on to secondary education.

At present Secondary education is provided by default at the Anderson High School in Lerwick, requiring children, from S1 on, to board away from home during the week. Recently, some parents have made placing requests at Baltasound Junior High. This has been made possible after some constructive cooperative work between SIC departments, resulting in a zero cost solution to the SIC. It does however mean that parents have to meet some modest transport costs.

Ongoing cost saving proposals by the SIC continue to cast doubts, about the future options for Fetlar pupils choosing to attend Secondary school in Baltasound, rather than Lerwick.

The ongoing challenges for the community are to continue to attract

more new families and couples looking to have children, to the island. Also to ensure that transport provision is available and affordable, to allow pupils to continue to attend School in Unst.



Actions

Continue to target families with children or planning families as our prime source of inward migrants. to ensure we maintain or increase school role.

Support the school and parent council in providing the best possible education to pupils

Seek to ensure continued access to Secondary education at Baltasound school, as an alternative to boarding at the AHS.

Background

In 2009 when the first Fetlar Development Plan was implemented to guide the regeneration of the island, things were looking very bleak. The population of Fetlar was in steady decline. Only the last initiative in the mid 1970's having been effective in temporarily stemming the downward trend, which had affected the island for the past 150 years. That respite was brought about by significant infrastructure investment in both the introduction of the new ro-ro ferry service and the building of the Stakkafletts housing estate. This allowed much better access to the island as well as significant housing opportunities. Many previous residents took the opportunity to return with their partners and families. However the lack of diversified employment opportunities has been an ongoing issue for retaining a sustainable population. The lack of a pier or harbour meant Fetlar was never able to develop a fishing industry in line with other communities in Shetland. Neither was Fetlar in a good position to fully exploit the more recent developments in Aquaculture, which have proved crucial to the wider Shetland economy.

In the last few years however, with active positive intervention from the local authority and other agencies, including the decision to construct a pier and berthing facility and the broadband pilot project, the population decline has been halted and reversed. The population currently stands at 81 (September 2013) up

from its low point of 48 in early 2009 and would be significantly higher if

THE POPULATION HAS
RECOVERED FROM
ONLY 48 IN SPRING
2009 TO 81 IN
SEPTEMBER 2013

there was more housing available.

The recovery, is to date, still very fragile and its continuance will depend on a number of factors including the hoped for effects on business and the economy coming from the completion of the pier. The upgraded high speed broadband system building on the existing pilot scheme should provide an incentive for IT based businesses to consider relocation to Fetlar, offering further scope for job creation.

Tourism related businesses which had suffered due at least in part to a lack of support infrastructure, are now starting to benefit from the ongoing cafe facility, now being run by the private sector and the reinvigorated Interpretive centre with its excellent craft shop and updated visitor information.

However an ongoing issue for the recovery will continue to be the lack of suitable housing. Without an ongoing increase in provision any recovery will be seriously restricted as housing and economic development are inexorably linked.

Achievements to date

Extensive Community consultation has been undertaken resulting in the first Development plan being produced in early 2009 and this latest version in 2012

A dramatic increase in population from a low point of only 48 residents to the present 81 an increase of 69%. In doing so we have also lowered the age profile of the community.

The new pier and breakwater has been completed and was opened on 1st December 2012.



Fetlar Developments has secured funding for and employed a full time Development worker and part time admin assistant.

Fetlar cafe has now been taken over by the private sector after completing 4 years of successful operation by the Community, providing important seasonal employment. As a result, Fetlar hall now has a range of new equipment including a dishwasher.

A welcome to Fetlar sign has been erected along with other improvements to signage.



A Local tourist information point has been established within the waiting room at Hamars Ness. Including the provision of a vending machine.

A projector and screen system has been installed allowing a near cinema experience for watching movies as well as offering a Video conference facility.

An old and derelict pond has been removed and been replaced by a new car park at the loch of Funzie.

The hall road has been resurfaced and finished with tar spray and chippings.

Tresta beach has been awarded and has retained a prestigious Seaside award.

We have retained Nursery/Primary school provision on the island with a growing school role.

A new website has been created for the island at www.fetlar.org acting both as a source of information for people looking to move or visit and also as a portal for other groups and businesses on the island. A number of community members have received training on updating the site.

Fetlar Fire Service

Fetlar has a fire station with a small appliance . It is staffed by a number of retained firefighters, under the command of a local watch leader and up to two team leaders



The station has for various reasons suffered recently from a high turnover of staff. Three people are currently part way through training and it is hoped to attract more in the near future.

In order for the unit to attend a "shout" there is a requirement for at least 4 firefighters available. In reality this means that there must be well in excess of that number retained, in order to ensure a consistent availability.

Up to 12 retained firefighters can be employed at any one time to provide that pool of firefighters. Depending on individual commitment levels.

With recent changes to the organization of the H&I fire service it is important to ensure that there are enough trained staff on the island to provide a reliable, credible service.

All retained staff are paid a retainer and all training is paid for. It can therefore provide an important additional form of income for islanders.

Should the station not be retained, the attendance time for crews being called in from off island would be significant and could potentially lead to an increase risk of fatalities should a fire occur. It is therefore essential we do everything we can to retain our service.



Actions

Encourage more local people to consider joining the service.

Advertise retained firefighter opportunities to potential inward moving families, as an important top up income.

Community areas and growing

More Community areas both for children and adults are required and some work is required to improve signage to existing areas such as the play park.

Existing garden areas such as the hall and Bod gardens could be improved.

These types of project could benefit greatly from volunteer involvement. Indeed work along these lines has already been started by FMT and the RSPB.

Ideally new areas will incorporate dog walking/exercise as well as offering amenities for adults and the provision of additional play areas for children. Not all of these activities need be incorporated into the same area.

We should take inspiration from other areas in Shetland such as 'Michael's Wood' in Aith which provides wonderful visitor experience. We should not seek to copy existing places but look to create our own under the Garden of Shetland theme.

As well as offering enjoyable areas for residents. these areas would also provide additional facilities for visitors and tourists and new habitat for birdlife.

Community growing

There is considerable interest in the Community for provision of allotments and polycrubs (or equivalent). Fetlar Developments should continue to lead on securing suitable land and funding

for the provision of these. Bearing in mind the location of the people most in need and the location of those without much if any existing access to land.

Provision of these will allow residents to become more self sufficient in fruit and vegetables as well as allowing some potential for sale of excess produce to local shops and tourist businesses. Training courses both in growing and in the use of produce should be incorporated.

Cookery courses using local produce, as well as well as e.g. Jam & chutney making courses, would help islanders make best use of their produce. They could also be offered to visitors



Actions

Continue seeking to secure land and funding for community areas and community growing project including allotments and polycrubs

Achievements (cont.)

Regular Community newsletters have been produced.

Fetlar's Makers group has been formed and they have already had great success in selling their quality products using the "Hand made in Fetlar" brand.

Fetlar Museum Trust has a new manager and a number of new Trustees and is looking ahead with some optimism. They are also now featuring locally produced crafts in their revamped craft shop.

Brough Lodge Trust has managed to secure around £400,000 to begin work on making the property wind and watertight.

There were 3000 copies of a free Fetlar tourism booklet produced which have been distributed widely over the past two years.

Annual visitor surveys have been conducted for the last 4 years.

FDL has been working on developing closer working links with the RSPB. This has resulted in the RSPB developing new promotional material for Fetlar, including maps and posters.

Organized various events including a Celebration event to mark the end of the first full year of FDL's regeneration the weekend long as well as a "Peerie taste of Fetlar" and Fetlar fun day.

We worked with B4 films to help facilitate their movie project.

Undertaken a number of feasibility and monitoring studies into the provision of renewables.

Secured some upgrades to Local authority run campsite. (NB the campsite is now privately owned)

Fetlar Developments has conducted annual visitor surveys.

The Community held a celebration event in 2010 to mark the first full year of operation of Fetlar Developments and to celebrate all that the Community had achieved.



Obtained funding for and purchased a new electric community minibus, which entered service in Summer 2013

Fetlar Hnefatafl panel has taken a lead in developing a standard set of rules for the game, which are now being widely adopted and they have held several World speed play championships.

Economic Development

As part of the island regeneration it is essential to promote and prioritize sustainable Economic Development.

As housing supply and affordability is inexorably inked to economic development the two must be developed in parallel.

We should work more closely with other North Isles communities and Development companies.

Identify our strengths and use them to maximum effect. Be proactive in our work. Identify issues and potential problems - including those caused by SIC cuts as soon as possible and act on them.

Marine sector

Look at all development opportunities for, and promote the new pier and breakwater, as well as the area to be cleared by excavating stone for the breakwater.

Ensure that ferry service provision is maintained and the ferry is now based in Fetlar, securing ferry jobs and offering potential for further employment. Securing a fresh water supply to the pier is critical to allow the full potential of the facility to be developed.

Explore opportunities for crofting/farming and textile based businesses.

Actively encourage people with Construction industry skills to relocate, as there is a demand for their skills.

Seek training opportunities for young islanders.

Tourism

Ensure that visitors have the best possible information prior to, during and after their visit.

Promote existing Tourist industry on the island.

Look at all ways of promoting and developing Tourism, both through increased use of existing resources but also by developing new markets and encouraging new businesses to use fetlar as a base and/or destination

IT

Promote our broadband service to as wide an audience as possible. While seeking to put in place a more permanent solution. Seek solutions to issues with Schoolhouse office

Actions

Work with EDU and Scottish Water to secure provision of water to the pier, Brough Lodge and the west side of the isle.

Work with SIC ferries to ensure that Fetlar is used as base year round for Fetlar ferry.

Work with companies and individuals to ensure maximum use is made of the pier for fishing and aquaculture.

Support the Fetlar Tourism Development Officer, in developing tourism on the island.

Fetlar Museum Trust

“Developing the potential of Fetlar’s award winning and much loved Interpretive Centre”



Fetlar Museum Trust has recently appointed a new manager and have ambitious plans to develop the Fetlar Interpretive Centre, while retaining the friendly feel of the existing layout.

This will include reorganisation and reinterpretation of displays, as well as the creation of some new ones, more rotation of exhibits, and making access to many of the Interpretive Centres extensive archives more accessible. This will be achieved by using new technology, including a rolling digitization program of all the audio and video archives.

The Trust is also planning to run schemes to better involve young people in the work of the Interpretive centre and allow them to make their contribution to its work

Fetlar Interpretive Centre also aims to work with local artists and craft workers for provide a quality point of sale for the products, including the development of branding for the many quality crafts made locally.

The Trust will also be looking into the possibilities of refurbishment and possible extension of the building to provide enhanced facilities and services to customers. Including provision of electric vehicle charge points.

Medical and Community Care



Fetlar has a full time community nurse who provides “on call cover” 24/7. The nurse works in Partnership with the Yell and Fetlar GP practice who hold surgeries in Fetlar every fortnight.

It is essential for the community that a full time medical presence in way of the nurse is retained on the island. It is appreciated that there are real challenges to doing so, in terms of skills retention, the challenges of lone working and the considerable on call commitment which the role entails.

The Community should work with NHS Shetland to ensure that as far as possible these issues are addressed .

Emergency lights have now been provided to ensure that casualty evacuations can be completed by helicopters other than the coastguard SAR one.

We also need to ensure the runway is maintained to allow fixed wind evacuation potential for less urgent casualty situations.

IT IS ESSENTIAL TO RETAIN OUR COMMUNITY NURSE

A small section of the road to the airstrip remains unpaved and can become very rutted and rough. This has the potential of causing patient discomfort or risk of exacerbating any injury

Actions

Ensure retention of community nurse

Work to ensure airstrip lighting is maintained and runway is also suitably maintained

Work towards a dial a ride or other transport service to allow residents to access the medical facilities in Yell, at least once a fortnight. ideally this would be on opposite weeks from Doctors visits.



Transport - Ferries continue to provide a lifeline service to the island. However the current Transport review has the potential to threaten this most essential of services.

It is essential that the ferries provide a means of ready access for tourists and tradespeople as well as allowing islanders to access services and employment opportunities, off island. In particular allowing people to stay on Fetlar and be able to commute to work on Yell or Unst or possibly further afield.

Dial a ride - This service continues to provide a good low cost method of public transport, connecting people with ferries and ongoing transport or collecting them from incoming transport connections. It does however have limitations due to the booking system in place. With the arrival of our electric Community minibus, which will continue to provide existing services, there should be scope to offer additional services.

Integration - At present after many years of tweaking, the local dial a ride, external buses and ferries all seem to link up fairly well, but we must ensure that this continues and further integration where possible is achieved.

For Education - a solution was found after meetings to allow pupils from

Fetlar to attend Baltasound Junior High. This was done with only minor timetable amendments, using existing transport provision, without any associated cost to the Public purse and allows pupils to be home each night.

The current default is Secondary is the Anderson High School.

AFFORDABLE TRANSPORT LINKS ARE VITAL TO THE FUTURE OF THE ISLAND

It is essential that ferries continue to integrate with other transport, so the lengthy waits at ferry terminals are avoided.

Actions

Complete charging infrastructure development in support of minibus.

Lobby for retention of an integrated affordable transport solution for Fetlar.

Ensure that islanders have the transport in place for their educational, employment, Social, medical or other needs.

Pier & Breakwater

The new facilities at Hamars Ness provide Fetlar with the opportunity for significant development within the marine sector.



The Fetlar ferry can now be based in the island and this has the potential for local jobs, to cover for holidays, training and sickness cover. As well as full time positions becoming available due to retirement

The berthing face at approx. 40m has space for up to 3, 10m class fishing vessels to be berthed alongside simultaneously. With the rich fishing ground surrounding Fetlar opportunities exist for commercial fishing activities to be based on the island, particularly in shellfish sector. The community must work with local shellfish licensing authorities to ensure that these opportunities are available.

Significant aquaculture activity takes place in the waters close to Fetlar and applications have been made from major Salmon companies to develop additional sites on Fetlar's north coast. Hamars Ness would be an ideal base for servicing

these new sites. It also provides significant space for development of feed stores or other associated support buildings if required.

Yachts are arriving in Shetland waters in increasing numbers and crews can provide a significant tourist spend. The well sheltered berthing facility with its integrated steps to aide disembarking should prove ideal for visiting yachts. The slipway will also provide opportunities for haul out of up to medium sized yachts and workboats

Cruise ships are also an increasingly common sight in Shetland waters and the sheltered harbour would be perfect to host launches from visiting cruise ships. Opportunities for provision of yours and other services would be created from such visits.

The large area created by the excavation of stone for the breakwater has significant development potential, some ideas for which have already been identified above.

Actions - Pursue the potential for local shellfish licences with SSMO

Work with companies to attract aquaculture and other marine related industry.

Seek best use for the large area left by the quarrying for the breakwater

Housing

The question of housing availability is inexorably linked to economic development. Without housing it is virtually impossible to develop or create a business which would require people to move into the island to provide the labour force. This equally applies to exiting services such as the ferries, which will require the availability of housing for potential new staff moving to Fetlar, as current staff retire, but continue to live locally. It is therefore imperative that some properties for sale and/or rent are available on a regular basis.

With a few exceptions, virtually all the existing stock of habitable property on the island is being used. There is some scope for additional properties to become available as there are currently 3 being refurbished. A further 9 or so could be refurbished but most of these would require significant investment. In some cases these are not much more than ruins and have no access and no or limited services.

Three bedroom Council properties remain in high demand from families . Only 1 single bed/sheltered properties is available at September 2013.

The insulation standard of the current social housing stock could be significantly improved.

Several private new builds are planned.

Based on an average occupancy of 3, if all properties under refurbishment, new builds planned and SIC properties came into use it would allow an

increase in the population to 98. This is just short of our revised 5 year target of 100.

Thereafter further housing supply will become restricted to properties requiring significant refurbishment or new builds.

Gateway housing has been shown to work very successfully in the outer islands of Orkney. FDL is seeking funding to build 3 gateway properties which would be available on short term leases to people looking to move to Fetlar initially with plans to self build or refurbish an existing property. These properties would also be available for families wishing to "try Fetlar" or potentially also to "keyworkers".

These plans however while going a fair way to addressing housing needs do not allow for those of more limited means or the requirements of young local people looking to get their first home.

The provision of a mains water supply to the currently unoccupied West side of the island could prove helpful in allowing significant extra scope for housing development.

Actions - *Work with SIC to encourage them to bring current social housing up to better insulation standard*

Continue work to provide "Gateway" properties on the island.

Work with owners to free up unused properties

Textiles & Crafts

The formation of the craft group and the development of the Handmade in Fetlar brand has had a very positive effect on both the lives of those involved but also on craft sales.

As far as possible craft workers are using products and materials made or grown in Fetlar.



The craft group have been supported by the Manager of Fetlar Interpretive Centre through the creation of a vibrant craft shop area along with personalised labeling and point of sale branded accessories, such as bags and packaging. This is funded by their commission on sales, with no additional costs to be met by the craftworkers. A card payment facility is also being trialled by Fetlar Museum Trust to see if it can help boost sales.

It is intended to further develop the craft sector in Fetlar and to look into wider markets through online selling, which some individuals already do.

Spinning Mill



The ability to produce the fibres and materials on Fetlar for use in local crafts, thereby offering a fully traceable product has a value to both the local craft and agricultural sectors. In addition it would have the potential of creating jobs.

FDL should progress robust investigations into whether a small scale spinning mill, with the capability of producing organic as well as standard yarns. If investigations show the idea to be financially viable, then FDL should proceed to develop the project

Actions

Continue to support and maximise sales through existing channels and look into additional selling opportunities.

Fully investigate the possibilities for a small spinning mill. If is shown to be a feasible opportunity, bring forward a project to put the facility in place.

Tourism

Tourism in Fetlar has been identified as a potential growth area. We currently have an estimated 4000 visitors each year. Most visitors come to Fetlar for the wildlife and walking. We should explore all opportunities to market the possibilities that Fetlar has to a wider tourist audience.

With limited accommodation available, even at current visitor numbers, most visitors have to stay off island. We should look to encourage development of further accommodation options, to support Tourism development.

Tourist information has been improved with provision of information, leaflets and maps at the Ferry waiting room and at Fetlar interpretive Centre, which is a Tourist information point. The geowall and various interpretation boards also provide additional information. We should continue to develop high quality information

Parking

We need to encourage people to use the car park at the loch of Funzie and also look at provision at Funzie beach, to avoid inconvenience for residents.

Access

Fetlar welcomes responsible tourism. We need to ensure that visitors are provided with the all information and guidance required to ensure they enjoy their visit and while doing so do not adversely affect the native wildlife or islanders. Particularly in regard to our

Schedule 1 species, such as red-necked phalarope, whimbrel and red throated divers.

Walking

Fetlar has a number of established core paths which make splendid walks. We need to ensure that these are maintained to a suitable standard and maps and information about the walks is available.

Tour guides

We should continue to develop our working relationship with the tour guides to ensure they are encouraged to add Fetlar as one of their primary destinations.

New developments.

We should explore and encourage new tourism developments which fit in with the character and natural environment

Actions

Following the appointment of a Fetlar Tourism Development Officer we should explore all options for increasing tourism on the island.

Both through strengthening existing tourism provision and by developing new tourism provision and opportunities.

Engaging with businesses outside Fetlar to ensure that we make best use of our natural assets, while retaining the character of the island.

IT and Broadband

Fetlar has benefitted from an SIC/ Shetland Telecom pilot project which has given the island some of the best internet connectivity in Shetland. The provision of this island wide radio based system, prompted BT to upgrade their exchange to an “up to 8 mbps standard”. Current ADSL technology will limit the effectiveness of any further upgrades to the exchange.



However the radio system is the only option for houses on the East of the island, who are too far from the exchange to get viable internet connections via BT.

The current systems backhaul will cease by the end of March 2014. Some potential options are available to replace it, however in the longer term another solution should be looked at

FDL should also continue support for the North Isles Community Broadband initiative which seeks to provide the availability of next generation broadband (at least 30Mb) to everyone in each of the 3 North Isles.

www.ni4cb.com.

Where possible this will be done using fibre to the home (FTTH) or wireless where fibre is just not possible. This has the potential for a much better long term solution. Linking to the existing fibre at Sullom Voe. Inter island links will be either undersea fibre or Gigabit Wireless.

Whatever system comes to pass it must offer opportunities for everyone on the island, not just those near the exchange.

As well as securing its delivery, we must promote the availability of good broadband to attract new and existing business into Fetlar. Attracting and/or creating a number of potentially highly skilled and well paid jobs. Also promoting the many quality of life benefits, in a pristine natural environment.

To assist such businesses move we also need to identify both sites for and existing potential business premises

*Actions -
Identify sites and suitable existing buildings.*

Promote broadband system as a benefit for people moving to Fetlar

Explore options with Shetland Telecom and North Isles Community Broadband for a better long term solution, including full or partial fibre connectivity on the island and beyond.

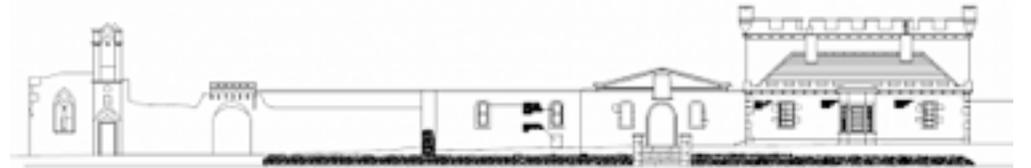
BROUGH LODGE TRUST

The vision is simple but effective: Brough Lodge, a category A-listed site, will be carefully restored and converted to serve as a mixed-use commercial venue.

Its historic atmosphere will be a focus for short courses and activities involving the arts (hand knitting, fiddle music, photography) and environmental themes (geology, archaeology, wildlife/bird watching). We also intend to offer short-stay holiday accommodation, business retreats and guided tours.



The project will benefit the local community by maximizing the potential for development of the tourist market. Up to six jobs will be created on an island where there are few employment opportunities and where economic diversification has been identified as essential for the island's survival and future development.



In its new role, the building will also help to expand knowledge and understanding, both within Shetland and further afield, of Fetlar's cultural heritage, which is a source of pride and confidence for the community. There is an opportunity to attract visitors, benefitting the whole island and possibly encouraging inward investment. Educational visits to Brough Lodge will also be encouraged and dedicated space and facilities will be set aside for them.

The initial phase of restoration will see the building made wind and watertight by 2012/13, thanks to funding received from Historic Scotland, Shetland Islands Council and Shetland Amenity Trust.

For more information please see www.broughlodge.org

Renewables and energy saving

We should investigate and develop where appropriate, suitable types of renewable energy. These developments will help in reducing the islands carbon footprint, as well as saving money on energy costs and produce an income.

Bring forward a project to erect 2 x 20kw turbines to provide energy to recharge the electric Community minibus, heating for the school and provide heat energy and electricity to the land owner/tenant in lieu of rent. System to be designed to run fully constrained, although a connection under the NINES (North Isles New Energy Solutions) even if 100% export constrained will be required for the turbines to operate.



As well as energy generation, ways of reducing energy bills for residents should be investigated thoroughly. Building on work started by the Energy Saving Trust and others. Working in partnership with other organizations and agencies, making sure that full use is made of government and other schemes designed to aid householders.

Actions

Develop as a priority minibus/renewables project, including turbines and garage/charging points.

Undertake full preparatory work on a larger wind project with significant income potential.

Investigate ways of reducing energy use and costs on the island. particularly in homes.



A larger scale project, well clear of current settlements should be investigated and developed as an income generating project. This will allow us to be in a position to take advantage of a connection via the proposed inter connector cable to the UK mainland.

This project could produce a substantial income stream to help secure the future sustainability of FDL and the community. Alternative uses for this energy rather than just basic export should also be thoroughly investigated.

Crofting and Farming

Crofting forms an important part of the economy of Fetlar. However it is widely recognized that current crofters and farmers are all getting older and there are few if any plans in place as yet for succession.

Long standing management agreements which have been in place with SNH are now causing crofters real issues. The financial support which was provided to crofters to help them comply with the terms of the agreements, is now potentially being withdrawn. However the requirements for crofters to continue complying with the terms of these agreements is not.



This is a no win situation for crofters and farmers who are required to manage their crofts in a far from commercially or for that matter ecologically sensible way, but now have to also bear the associated costs themselves. No other industry is being expected to do this.

The crofting community has to make the best possible case to agencies and work closely with consultants to find the best options available for the future.

There also needs to be dialogue with crofters to see how crofts can be freed up for new entrants.

Investigations should be made into the possibility of acquiring larger areas of non croft land, which could be split into smaller holdings and/or to provide house sites. this would assist in both retaining young people on the island as well as offering opportunities for people moving in.



Actions

Work with SNH and other relevant agencies to find a workable solution to the current situation in regard to management agreements, so that crofters can obtain a reasonable level of compensation for any management agreements in place.

The crofting community to support an independent review of the existing management agreements to ensure a more balanced method of land use so as to have the most beneficial effect on the conservation of the areas which require protection.

Look to identify successors to current crofters and to put in place ways of allowing new entrants into crofting and farming. Ensure that best use is made of available agricultural land for the long term benefit of the community.

Look into ways of making available plots of land or houses with small holdings, which would be available for young islanders

ACTION	TIMESCALE	DELIVERED BY	DESIRED OUTCOME	COSTS	SECURED
Secure funding for 3 Gateway houses	2013-2014	FDL	Three properties available for short term rental.	Circa £600 - £700k	feasibility only
Secure land and funding for growing project plus classes in horticulture and food prep.	2013-2014	FDL	Community allotments/polycrubs available. Community better educated in growing and using produce	£20-30k plus rental	no
Ensure Fetlar ferry remains and is based in Fetlar	Ongoing	F D L , F C C , N.I.Councillors & Ferry crew	Ferry is based on Fetlar and continues to provide a service which meets community needs	SIC ferry budget	N/A
Develop partnership working with other North isles Development companies	Ongoing	FDL Directors, staff & private sector	Enable information sharing, joint working and possibly joint and/or complimentary projects	WEB	Yes
Secure funding for and implement turbine based minibus charging and micro district heating system.	2013/2014	FDL, LES,SIC	Renewable charging facility available for minibus and low cost green energy available to school. Small potential for income generation in short term. With longer term more significant income potential	£100 approx. turbine costs separate likely to be £180k	No
Fully investigate and if feasible bring to development an income generating turbine project	2013-2018	FDL	Secure financial sustainability for FDL and funds for community development	Up to £1.8 m depending on size of turbine	No
Secure and further develop Broadband, work towards FTTH with NGA + speeds	2013-2014	FDL Shetland Telecom + others	Increased connection speeds. Offering more opportunities for business and remote working	WEB of Shetland Telecom	Yes
Engage with SIC through consultations and reviews to put forward the Transport needs of the Community.	Ongoing	FDL, FCC, SIC Transport,	Ensure that islanders have the transport in place for their educational, employment, Social, medical or other needs.	WEB of SIC Transport	Ongoing
Engage with crofters and agencies to ensure best deal on management agreements and land made available for new entrants into crofting	Ongoing	Crofters. Grazings Committee, SNH, HIE, FCC.	Crofters income maintained and new entrants enabled	WEB	Ongoing
Investigate options for a small scale Spinning Mill on Fetlar, with capability to handle organic yarn.	2013-2014	FDL	Small spinning mill would offer an outlet for local wool, offering better returns for crofters, fully traceable craft products and employment	Feasibility <£10k Project est £500k	No
Encourage more people to join local retained firefighters	Ongoing	FDL, FCC, Highlands & Islands fire Service	Retention of local fire station and fire service	WEB	WEB
Lobby for retention of Nurse and upgrades to airstrip to ensure Emergency evacuation.	Ongoing	NHS Shetland, SAS, SIC, FCC, FDL	Retention of nurse and 24 hour emergency cover on the island	WEB	WEB
Promote Fetlar and provide information through all available means. including a media information section on Fetlar website	Ongoing	FDL,FCC, FMT, BLT, RSPB, Promote Shetland	Continue to provide up to date information for visitors,residents and prospective residents through a variety of media.	WEB	WEB