

DURNESS DEVELOPMENT GROUP LIMITED

Sangomore Headland
Durness
Sutherland IV27 4PZ
01971 511346
E-mail ronnie@durness.org

2006 Trustees Report

The nature of the charity's founding document

Community Company limited by guarantee without share capital.
Recognised as A community Body Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003
Registered Office Sangomore Headland Durness Sutherland IV27 4PZ
Registered in Scotland Number 222915
Recognised as a Scottish Charity Number SC 032179

Trustees

All appointed by nomination and election as directed in the articles of association and memorandum

Chairman Graham Bruce Head teacher Schoolhouse Durness Sutherland IV244PN

Secretary Ronald Lansley Sangomore Headland Durness IV274PZ

Treasurer Sheila Frazer Education Coordinator Puffin Cottage Durine Durness IV27 4PN

Vice Chair Fiona Mackay Hotelier Oceana Durine Durness IV274PN

Director Yvonne Mackay Project coordinator Heatherlea Sangomore Durness IV27 4PZ

Director John Mackenzie Shop proprietor Durine Durness IV274PN

Director Mary Mackay J.P. Puffin Cottage Durine Durness Sutherland IV274PN

The charity's objectives

- To promote the benefit of the inhabitants of Durness and its environs
- To relieve poverty among the residents of the Operating Area who are in necessitous circumstances
- To advance education and to promote training programmes and opportunities for the benefit of the residents of the Operating Area particularly among young people and the unemployed;
- To protect and / or preserve the environment, in consultation with conservation bodies, for the benefit of the general public.
- To promote trade and industry for the benefit of the general public;
- To provide or assist in the provision of housing for people in necessitous circumstances within the Operating Area;
- To promote, establish and operate other schemes for the benefit of the community within the Operating Area provided that always that such schemes are charitable in law
- To manage community land and associated assets for the benefit of the Community and the public in general as an important part of the protection and sustainable development of Scotland's natural environment, where 'sustainable development' means development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

2005 Report of Activities

Year 5 of the Development Groups activities have been diverse. The company continue to have their statutory and acquired responsibilities. In essence this is the ownership of the community house in Bard Terrace and the organization, administration, management and operation of the ongoing projects, the initiation of new projects and the running of the company. It should be noted that there are no paid positions for these responsibilities and they are undertaken through voluntary commitment. This does stifle the impetus of the group, keeping the main efforts in sustaining the composite coordination of the company consequently limiting what could be achieved with a full time obligation. The central dilemma that arises from this is the inconvenience that arises should the voluntary characteristic cease.

Groups and individuals Durness Development Group has business with in the course of its dealing

- Durness Youth Club, Durness Sutherland Close liaison to provide youth activities and services
- Kinlochbervie High School Manse Road Kinlochbervie Close liaison on to provide youth activities and services. During early 2006 the NWYI notified the development Group they no longer wished to have the lease on the Youth Facility in Bard Terrace and a Durness Youth Group is being established to continue the structure for the youth element of bard terrace to continue
- Bettyhill High School Farr Nr. Thurso. Close liaison on to provide youth activities and services
- North West Youth Initiative Kinlochbervie High School Sutherland Close liaison n to provide youth activities and services
- ARC Dr Issie Macphail, Assynt Research & Consultancy 204 Clashmore Stoer Assynt Sutherland IV27 4JQ commissioning for heritage and historical research
- Strathnaver Museum Bettyhill nr Thurso liaison on for historical and heritage research
- Scottish Natural Heritage SNH Main Street Golspie Sutherland KW10 6TG
- Highland Council Ranger Donald Mitchell, TIC Durness Sutherland
- Lotte Glob Far North Pottery Laid By Altnaharra to provide artistic work by involvement in projects.
- Glasgow University Archaeologists Olivia Lelong, B.A., M.Phil., Ph.D. Project Manager (Archaeological Projects) Glasgow University Archaeological Research Division (GUARD) Gregory Building bLilybank Gardens Glasgow G12 8QQ Scotland
- Scottish Land Fund Community Land Advisor Taigh Fearnach Auchtertyre Balmacara Kyle IV40 8BD Registration under land Reform (Scotland Act 2003 to register an inter4est in land
- Highlands and Islands Enterprise Community Energy Unit - North Highlands CASE Station Road Golspie Sutherland KW10 6TG
- Highland Council Arts development officer Roxana Meechan Sutherland The Highland Council Education, Culture & Sport Highland Council Offices Main Street Golspie Sutherland KW10 6RB
- Council for Voluntary Services North
- Funders as explained elsewhere

UNDERTAKING AND DUTIES

Bard Terrace

Current Performance

- Council of Voluntary Service North continue to have an office

- Highland Council continue to have an office
- Durness Senior Youth Group have taken on the responsibility from the NWYI for the youth leisure and recreational facility
- The digital Studio and the youth workers share the other office.
- Calasona use this youth office for a couple of hours once a week for group meetings on a Thursday afternoon.
- The public internet access and the 2 computers has been working fairly well although they have had minor troubles
- The installation of the central heating has been completed
- A new metered computer was installed in the youth café

Ongoing Actions

- Rules and regulations are being clearly set for the use of the facility with the new Youth group
- Maintenance, the establishment of a care and preservation programme
- A Bard Terrace Budget for maintenance and repairs and work is being carried out, new stair carpet, paint of digital studio.

Mackay Country

- **Young Roots** funded through Heritage lotteries in conjunction with Durness Youth Club and Scotland Against Drugs support this project came to an end. Full details were described in the 2005 Annual Report. The final report and claim is pending

Youth Workers

This project has progressed in advance of our expectations and is reaching and is in excess of our predicted outcomes. After slight initial difficulties due to finding one suitable full time person the post was made into a job share (this was discussed and approved by the funder) and we have benefited from this change. We have two persons working closely together providing a better service to the post than we could expect from one. The community has two dedicated youth workers and are providing a coherent approach to current youth activities in the parish. Their diverse skills and abilities are providing a consistent and reliable plan to involve all sections of the youth and are continuing to develop further activities based on the youth's interest. The youth workers have encouraged and supported the youth of the locality and liaison between all the groups with a youth aspect. This has been highly appreciated by the overstretched volunteers alleviating many pressures and allowing the volunteers to give their commitment to their interests and skills and passing on those interests and skills to the youths

The capacity of community groups providing activities for young people has increased with the additional support provided by the youth development workers. The groups are offering a wider selection of pastimes. There has been an increase in the number of youth activities and opportunities. Several additional outings have been

achieved, and in this remote location that is a great responsibility and achievement. New opportunities have been realised and by instigating new and improving the scope of ongoing activities.

The opportunities have increased addressing peer isolation. Individual attention has been given to young people who in the past have been unwilling or unable to participate and with this attention their interests are being addressed and projects and activities are arranged to ensure their inclusion.

This is ongoing and we believe positive progress is being accomplished. The youth workers have instigated initiatives out with the operating groups.

Our workers are attending relevant training opportunities organising the visits of specialists for both volunteer and youth training and skills development. Working with youths and encouraging a responsible attitude and approach to ensuring they fulfil their potential with a mature attitude takes time and a progression towards gaining their confidence. The youth workers are delivering this in a steady fashion and are helping to achieve our original outcomes and benefits

- Youth lotteries 1st and 2nd year report is on file
- There have been regular meetings with youth workers and the monitoring and evaluation documents are on file.

Estate

- An ongoing liaison for a Renewable Energy project and to seek development officer funding is ongoing. Funding for one year has been secured from the Big Lotteries and a community Animature is to be appointed.
- Lotteries application renewable energy development scheme. Outline & Application are on file
- A scoping stage study is underway with Community Energy funding through Renewable Devices. Brief and tender are on file and involved the creation of a steering committee composed of members of the Development Group, Community Council and Grazing committee.

Cape Wrath and Registration of an Interest in Land

The application submitted in 2005 -2006 was accepted and a registering of interest has been recorded in the registers. Application details on file.

Arts residency application

Scottish Arts council have awarded Durness Development Group funds for the Commissioning of 3 artists for a period of 3 months each to work with sites of historical and scientific interest and develop work that will be accessible to the local community and beyond.

The project will involve artists to work at locations specifically on 3 key sites of historical and scientific interest in Sutherland. The project will be managed by an arts director with a local administrator and will utilise the digital arts studio in Durness as a base. It will include contact time with young people in this social inclusion area and

workshops in Farr, Kinlochbervie High Schools and Durness, Kinlochbervie, Tongue, Farr Primary Schools should they wish to participate.

The artistic interpretation of the site will develop over the period of each artist's residency and culminate in an exhibition/event. There will also be documentation of the residencies on a virtual Mackay Country website and a CD Rom containing images, sound files and video interviews which will be produced toward the end of the year offering a high quality model of this project for distribution in the area. It is envisaged that local artists will also benefit from the project through workshops and invitations to apply for the residencies themselves. Support to the artists will be in the form of studio space, a peer support technician, artistic director's assistance and the support of the facilitating organisation. Artists will be selected who have specialist experience of addressing different aspects of site specific interpretation for example in Social / historical / contemporary information/ Archaeological Political, social and narrative history

The unique sites located in Sutherland will offer each of the artists an opportunity to research the sites and develop their work through exposure to each of the site's unique history and structure. The artists will be encouraged to develop links with other professionals in the areas of study in order to expand their range of knowledge and imaginative vision toward the final exhibition. The artists will present a site specific exhibition that incorporates elements of this research and their experience within the highland community. They will have the freedom and support to be experimental within their practice in order to realise this and the facilities within the digital studio in Durness with assistants to assist them. The project will be well documented in order to encourage dialogue and debate among the arts community and the wider community.

Each of the artists will deliver workshops within the digital arts studio and surrounding schools in order to share their skills and research around the sites with the young people and wider community in Mackay Country and involve people who have few or no opportunities to participate in this aspect of the arts. The actual sites have yet to be finalised.

An application to the Highland 2007 was submitted for a proportion of funds and confirmation of this was received. This project has proved very successful and full details are on file for all aspects.

Directors meetings

There have been 4 directors meetings over the year and an e mail contact has been kept ongoing with directors having input as projects proceed. All the agendas and minutes are distributed by e –mail.

Membership

Membership has stayed steady since last year. To enable a community body to be truly representative there is defined membership criteria regarding numbers. If the community body is taking on projects as ambitious as land ownership of Cape Wrath and therefore having to produce realistic development and business plans which in turn have to be implemented a secure membership base is critical. This membership

must be able to provide the resources to enable, or provide the resources to work towards the enabling of the aims and objectives of the community body as a whole or of the schemes they wish to initiate. These resources must be financial or assets to determine the desires of the membership. It may be membership should be offered without charge to every eligible person.

Ceannabeinne Township and (Crospoil School)

To review, we have identified a site of archaeological and historical interest - Ceannabeinne Township – which offered interesting opportunities for interpretation and promotion both to local people and visitors to the area. We have had a detailed feasibility study carried out that has identified a process for interpretation and access ability. To enable a full and comprehensive funding application to be presented to appropriate funding bodies we have to carry out several surveys, negotiations, costings, plans and designs. Funds are being sought currently from Your Heritage Lottery fund, SNH and Highland Year of Culture 2007

Other Business

- Grant help for Durness brochure was given to the community council to update and printing the A3 colour brochure of Durness.
- Data protection policy and registration was carried out during this year.
- TIC meeting plan, displays are being coordinated by the development group and funds for an interpretive planner are secured through Scottish Natural heritage for a consultant to coordinate all the ideas of the groups involved.

A vision of the potential, prospect and opportunity of Durness Development Group

Much of the current accomplishment revolves around fitting aims and objectives to current grant trends. As grant funding becomes more elusive, conditions become more specific and expectations of community groups become more involved it is not a recommended practice to continue to depend upon grant funding for existence. Although this may constantly be available the grant dictates the practices of the group and do not allow the company to make any long term plans All exercises are dependant on short term funding.

As eluded to in the introduction the company has no dedicated salaried management. Within each of the projects there are paid consultants, some times administrators and workers but the overall dependability is maintained by volunteer directors. A portion of costs is where appropriate apportioned to the office or property of Bard Terrace. Always, the directors of the company, who cannot be paid, will be overall responsible for the companies' activities. Each project to date has been devised to be self sufficient but as the company becomes more diverse and ambitious; both in its own aims and in the expected aims, the projects become more integrated and interdependent. To build on the accomplishments, results and conclusions of the past

projects an officeholder of accountability, with direct chain from the directors, carrying out their plans is now worth considering. Funds for such a person would have to be obtainable. This is the dilemma facing the company. The social community body is not generating funds from economical earnings to create such a position.

Day to day management, research and development, transfer of ideas in to workable projects, sourcing funds, maintaining a good on going community communication, sustain operations of projects but maturing a defined economic base for the company are now becoming paramount if this community body is to prolong. In summary either grant funding for reasonable time has to be forthcoming or a community project generating wealth that is prepared to finance such a position has to be forth coming or the company will continue with an unsecured future. The potential with a dedicated commitment to the company and its aims with direction form the directors has nearly unlimited potential. Currently the group move from project to project as funds become available and opportunities arise and volunteer time allows. A dedicated business plan has not been adopted since the inception of the company.

A web site for the group

A space is being used on the www.durness.org website for the Development Group and it is hoped that this will be developed in 2006-2007

- a. To communicate minutes and meetings
- b. To report on activities
- c. To enhance the community site but not duplicate
- d. To record and update on the projects

Community Employment Development (carried from 2005-2006)

Using the status as a social community body and enlisting the support and financial backing of business within the community. Asking them to sign up to a package where they contribute an agreed sum toward establishing a community job for a young person. An approved job description is then created and an amount of hours is worked in return for the donation. Funds from the pool are used to gain matching funds and used towards training courses and learning for the young person. Benefits are obtained for the community as a whole and the individual business have a worker for a variety of jobs. The young person gains experience in a diverse range of work by participation in a range of community work.