

# DURNESS DEVELOPMENT GROUP LIMITED

Sangomore Headland  
Durness  
Sutherland IV27 4PZ  
01971 511846  
E-mail [ronnie@durness.org](mailto:ronnie@durness.org)

## Report of the Trustees for the year ended 30<sup>th</sup>. September 2008

### The nature of the charity's funding document Reference and Administrative details.

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 as set out 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 Retired 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. Glengoly Durine Durness Sutherland IV274PN

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## **Objectives and Activities**

The charity's objectives are:

- 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.

## **Achievements and Performance**

Year 7 of the Development Groups activities again 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

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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.

In this year Durness Development Group has worked very closely with CVS North, Mackay Country Community Trust and the activities of these groups has impinged and partnership with cooperation ventures that would not have been possible .

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
- Durness Senior Youth Group for the youth element of Bard Terrace
- 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
- Glasgow University Archaeologists Olivia Lelong, B.A., M.Phil., Ph.D. Project Manager (Archaeological Projects) Glasgow University Archaeological Research Division (GUARD) Gregory Building Lilybank Gardens Glasgow G12 8QQ Scotland
- Highlands and Islands Enterprise Community Energy Unit - North Highlands CASE Station Road Golspie Sutherland KW10 6TG
- Funders as explained elsewhere

## **UNDERTAKING AND DUTIES**

### **Bard Terrace**

#### **Current Performance**

- Council of Voluntary Service North continue to have an office
- Highland Council evacuated and Mr David Rees photographer has set up
- Durness Senior Youth Group for the youth leisure and recreational facility
- The digital Studio and the youth workers share the other office.

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- Calasona have the use of the locked cupboard at the top of the stairs
- The public internet access and the 2 computers has been working fairly well although they have had minor troubles

### Ongoing Actions

- Rules and regulations are being clearly set for the use of the facility with the Youth group
- Maintenance, the establishment of a care and preservation programme

### Youth Workers

Funding application to Lloyds TSB for a further 3 years of employing the youth workers has been successful and this with discretionary funding from the Ward Forum budget of the Highland Council allowed Margery Morrison has been retained and Tony Jackson has been employed on a job share. Youth lotteries 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> year report is on file

- Research and feasibility are underway for a Youth Café- snooker extension 2 applications to AWA have been refused on bank detail

### Renewable Energy

- RD Energy Solutions Ltd was commissioned by the Durness Development Group Ltd to tender to provide support in relation to an on-shore wind energy feasibility study on parts of the Durness estates.
- Regular newsletter have been distributed regarding the progress of this project
- Further clarification on line structure and improvements necessary for increasing the capacity are ongoing.
- Pre planning documentation has been written and the steps have been completed for an EIA to be initiated as soon as the economics regarding line improvements have been declared.
- All studies and newsletters are on electronic file

### Cape Wrath and Registration of an Interest in Land

This application remains on the register

### Ceannabeinne Township and (Crospoil School)

Funds were secured from Your Heritage Lottery fund, SNH and Highland Year of Culture 2007. This project is completed - Consolidation, access and interpretation of heritage, conserve, enhance Environment of Ceanabeinnne. The project can be summarised - A census of the 16th June 1841 details ten families and their occupations living in fourteen houses and a school. We wish to make a trail with interpretation panels and recreate dramatically the story in a new and old documentary form using digital media. We will spend the money on commissioning professional archaeologists to research, record and make available information to interpret local history, building a footpath to provide safe access and an education trail, labour to clear an area and identify the Biological diversity and heritage of the historical site. We are planning to, design, write and print information for interpretive panels, purchase materials, media, costumes and equipment to dramatize the story of the township and record this in documentary fashion with an approach of Past and present.

### **Tourist Information centre**

Following on from the Durness Development Group Limited commission consultants to develop an Interpretive Plan for Durness Tourist Information Centre a registration of Interest has been successfully lodged with the Scottish Government.

### **Geopark field visit**

Working closely with Durness Community Council Durness held a Community Action forum on a day in September as part of the NWHG conference a field trip from the NWH Geopark conference had a delegation from the conference. After a welcome and coffee an introduction to the community activities carried out in Durness and the involvement with other communities in the north was given. The village hall was set up with exhibitions of recent and of ongoing activities including information and pictures from Youth projects, Highland Gathering, sheepdog trials, Cape Wrath Challenge and Mackay Country. Young people from the Feis Air on Oir provided music to accompany the talks and exhibitions. After lunch the visitors were invited to Smoo cave where they were able to see first hand some of the unique geological aspects of the area. Skylab stayed from their visit on the Friday evening and gave an insight to the skies that can be seen.

### **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 with a membership offered without charge to every eligible person.

### **Other Business**

### **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 from 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](http://www.durness.org) website for the Development Group and it is hoped that this will continue to be developed in 2008-2009

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

**Durness Development Group**  
**Company Limited by Guarantee**

**Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> September 2008**

	Note	Unrestricted Funds 2008 £	Restricted Funds 2008 £	Total Funds 2008 £	Total Funds 2007 £
<b>Incoming Resources</b>					
From generated funds:					
Voluntary income		-	-	-	-
Activities for generating funds	2.	4,995	-	4,995	5,824
Reimbursed expenses	3.	335	554	889	918
Bank Interest		2,129	-	2,129	1,522
From charitable activities:					
Grants	4.	<u>          -</u>	<u>77,832</u>	<u>77,832</u>	<u>75,235</u>
<b>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</b>		<b><u>7,459</u></b>	<b><u>78,386</u></b>	<b><u>85,845</u></b>	<b><u>83,499</u></b>
<b>Resources Expended</b>					
Costs of generating funds:					
Costs of generating voluntary Income		4,053	-	4,053	3,599
Charitable activities Costs	5.	-	82,096	82,096	59,210
Governance Costs		970	-	970	1,100
<b>TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>		<b><u>5,023</u></b>	<b><u>82,096</u></b>	<b><u>87,119</u></b>	<b><u>63,909</u></b>
<b>NET RESOURCES (EXPENDED)</b>		<b>2,436</b>	<b>(3,710)</b>	<b>(1,274)</b>	<b>19,590</b>
Total funds brought forward		<u>40,051</u>	<u>29,277</u>	<u>69,328</u>	<u>49,738</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>		<b><u>42,487</u></b>	<b><u>25,567</u></b>	<b><u>68,054</u></b>	<b><u>69,328</u></b>