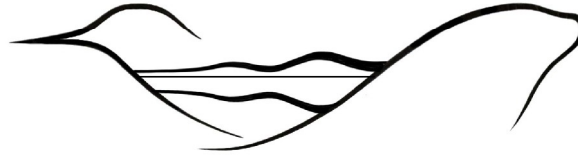


# Sanday Development Trust

enhancing quality of life



## Update on activities since publication of development plan in January 2005

### Our organisation

**Status:** Sanday Development Trust (SDT) is a company limited by guarantee, registered in Scotland (No. 263577) and a recognised Scottish charity (SC 035495)

**Membership** (open to island residents over the age of 18): 93

**Board:** 12 voluntary directors

#### Staff:

- Local Development Officer (LDO) – 3 year p/t post funded through grants from Orkney Enterprise (OE), Orkney Islands Council (OIC) and the Crofters Commission.
- Countryside Ranger – 3 year p/t post funded by Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), Rural Challenge Fund, CED fund, OE, OIC, with a small contribution from SDT.

#### Sub-groups:

- Culture & Heritage
- Environment, Renewables and Waste Management – 7 members
- Health & Wellbeing – 4 members, recently set up
- Housing, Economy and Lady Hall – 14 members, currently chaired by LDO
- Publishing – 5 members, recently set up
- Youth – varies, depending on activities – led by Sanday's Youth Development Worker, who is also a director on the board.

#### Funds at SDT's disposal:

- £5,000 – one off from Initiative at the Edge to facilitate implementation of the development plan
- £2,500 – Orkney Community Planning Partnership (OCCP) from the Community Regeneration Fund, initially for one year, now confirmed £2,500 per annum for

another 3 years. This fund is primarily for capacity building to enable the Trust to function effectively.

- £1,000 seed corn funding from Sanday Community Council (SCC)
- Own funds – at present a few hundred pounds per year raised through small fund raising efforts and events. As yet the Trust owns no assets.

## **Past, current and planned activities**

A list of activities that the Trust has been involved in since it was formed at the start of 2004 follows. It is arranged more or less under the themed headings of the Sanday Development Plan, in the order of priority placed on them by the community at the time the plan was produced (2003/2004). A consultant was brought in to facilitate the discussion, compilation and production of the development plan, which was published in early 2005. The whole exercise was funded through grants from Orkney Enterprise and CED funds.

A recurring theme is the issue of financing each and every activity. The Trust has limited disposable income at present and expends a great deal of time and effort seeking funding for all but the smallest projects. What money it has is used to good effect to lever in larger amounts, and the OCCP and latE funds have been instrumental in enabling a great deal of activity. Contributions “in kind” often make up proportions of the SDT contribution. We are getting better at assessing and accounting for the value of in kind contributions by the community.

## **Economy**

**Skills survey** – well over half of the island’s resident adult population participated in the survey. It cost around £2500, which was funded through OIC Quality of Life grants. Members of the community were trained up and involved in the compilation of the survey, its delivery, the recording of results and analysis. To date, we have used the results to help us identify who has key skills and also to develop a range of courses and seminars. Courses and training sessions we have initiated and run that have focussed on capacity building, include:

- How to chair a meeting well - funded by SDT
- How to identify new markets, branding, and how to market your own organisation - funded by Orkney Enterprise
- How to design publicity leaflets and poster - funded by OIC Quality of Life grants
- Basic IT training (one-to-one where requested) – funded by SDT
- Website design (for young people) - funded by OIC Quality of Life grants
- Entrepreneurship (for young people) - funded by OIC Quality of Life grants
- How to write a good funding application – funded by SDT

- Attendance of various SDT board members and the LDO at a number of conferences – e.g. DTA and DTA Scotland events, Rural Housing service, Regeneration and Renewal Conference, Initiative at the Edge events – which enable networking, confidence and skills building. These have been funded through LDO funding (for the LDO only), through the Seeing is Believing fund (Communities Scotland), the Rural Housing Service, Initiative at the Edge, and DTA funding. Some trips are full funded, in some cases SDT usually contributes around 10% of costs from the OCCP fund.

Other planned activities stemming directly from the skills survey are an archery and trampolining taster sessions and a weaving workshop, to be held over the summer.

In some cases small charges are made for courses, most of which are open to anyone in the community to attend. The courses themselves have cost of the order of £50 to £500. SDT has used some of a £2500 grant from OCCP, and anything left from the skills survey to fund its contributions.

A series of wool-related workshops (using natural dyes, spinning, and felting) and other craft sessions are planned. They are designed to involve all sectors of the community to develop interests and skills, and also to encourage social engagement. In many cases expert skills can be found within Orkney, but sometimes the best resource resides outside Orkney, which adds substantially to costs. Funding of a few thousand pounds will be sought for these to cover fees, materials, travel and accommodation.

It is also planned to bring in specialist speakers to stimulate ideas and progress projects – e.g. on local organic produce schemes (we have the gleam of an idea for undercover, polytunnel allotments, heated through renewable sources), managing waste and recycling, economic uses of seaweed – and to undertake learning journeys to enable people to see at first hand what is being achieved elsewhere. One such journey is a trip to the Inverness areas to see Findhorn (range of social enterprises, eco-friendly buildings, community wind farm, reed-bed water recycling), Horizon Scotland innovation centre and developments around Inverness/Aviemore. Travel to and from the outer isles Orkney being what it is, any such undertaking takes time and costs quite a lot – travel and subsistence making up the bulk of the costs, which in this case, for up to 5 people will be of the order of £1,500. The Communities Scotland Seeing is Believing fund has been a vital source of part funding that has enabled learning journeys to date – notably a trip to Gigha, organised by the SDT with participants from Eday, Stronsay, North Ronaldsay and Orkney Enterprise to see housing and wind turbine developments there.

**Natural Dye Project** – an avenue being explored to try to reinvigorate Sanday's once thriving wool/ knitting industry is the development of locally produced natural dyes, produced using methods based on those used during the Viking occupation of Sanday. The Trust is in conversation with the Orkney Agronomy institute to identify plants that

can be successfully and sustainably grown and harvested in Sanday and used for dyestuff, as well as identifying safe use and disposal of mordants, and suitable production methods. A limited range of colours will be produced and tested locally. A market for the dyes themselves will be investigated, but if it is not viable on a commercial scale, the research findings will be published locally, where small quantities will be produced to dye local wool and other textiles to create a unique Sanday product. The costs of this project are likely to be of the order of £35,000.

**Lady Hall Project** – a sub-group has been working up plans to redevelop the site of the old community hall in Lady Village (currently owned by Sanday Community Council) to accommodate art/craft units, and interpretation centre and office space (for the Trust, the Ranger and local business people), tourist information, a café and much needed public toilets. This is a work in progress and is being looked at in relation to other developments on the island, in particular a Youth Drop-In Centre and a proposed Community School, Sports, Youth and Learning facility. The intention is to design an eco-friendly, energy efficient attractive place to work in and visit to create a new economic and social focus in Lady Village. The development would be a facility for the whole island and it is hoped would encourage greater entrepreneurship, and attract economically active newcomers to Sanday. Ultimately the costs will probably be of the order of £300,000 - 500,000.

SDT is also in communication with OE about the possibility of the building of small industrial units in Sanday, which would be owned and let by HIE/OE.

## Housing

SDT is working closely with the Sanday Community Council (SCC) to engage with the community to define a master plan for future development of the island, and design guides that will promote sustainable growth and at the same time try to ensure that the island's natural heritage and unique sense of place remain intact. We are consulting with Orkney Islands Council planning department, the Glasgow School of Architecture and Architecture and Design Scotland on the best approach to this, hoping to establish a pilot study for Orkney in Sanday. The exercise may cost up to £20,000 and we will be seeking assistance from funds such as the New Ideas Fund, the Big Lottery Investing in Communities fund, and LEADER+.

Through Initiative at the Edge we are planning a community-led housing needs survey, to clearly define what our current and future needs may be. To meet those needs SDT and SCC will be working in close partnership with the appropriate agencies, in particular OIC housing department and Orkney Housing Association Ltd. It is anticipated that the housing needs survey will be funded centrally through OE and OIC.

## **Infrastructure**

Access to effective and efficient telecommunications is seen as critical to the island's sustainable development, so broadband coverage has been a big issue in the community. The Trust conducted a small survey at the start of the year that revealed that the reach of our ADSL enable exchange is not sufficient to cover the whole island, and that there are some fundamental problems with the basic network on the island. The Trust has fed a continual stream of information to the Scottish Executive's (SE) Telecoms Policy Unit to build a case for improvements to the broadband service. Advice as to what will or will not be done is anticipated soon. If no help is forthcoming from SE and or BT, the Trust will need seek a way forward. The kind of technology and work required might run into hundreds of thousands of pounds.

## **Community facilities, leisure and recreation**

**Sports, Youth and Learning Facility-** Sanday has a very active community, with a whole range of sporting, learning and social activities on the go that use the community facilities at the school to the full, particularly over the winter months, when hours of darkness are long and the weather can, frankly, be vile. When members of the community originally proposed the building of an indoor Sports Hall on the island four years ago, the Sanday Community Association (SCA), which runs all local community facilities, did not want to be involved. SDT set up a Sports Hall group that developed the idea, drew up draft plans and started to engage with Orkney Island Council. The project has now evolved to such a degree that it has the full support of the Sanday Community School, the SCC and the SCA. The vision is to develop a facility that will be an adjunct of the community school and serve as a combined community indoor sports, youth and life-long learning centre. The SCA is now taking the lead of the project, with SDT taking a back seat. The ultimate cost of this project is likely to be in the order of £1.8. The community can, at present contribute about £60,000 the project, through funds raised locally. SCA will be seeking major funding from a variety of sources.

**Youth Drop-In Centre –** Various attempts to establish a youth drop-in centre over the past 5 or more years have come to nothing, largely because suitable premises have simply not been available. It has been proposed that a suitable space be created in the proposed Sports, youth and learning facility, but that project is at least 5 years away from coming to fruition. The Sanday community has recently been given the option to purchase at market value two properties (adjoined bungalows next to the school), currently owned by OIC. These could provide the ideal temporary home for the Youth Drop-in Centre, fulfilling an immediate need. A public meeting is to be held to gauge the communities view on this and to establish what use could be made of the buildings in the long term. If the community endorses the idea, funding will be obtained to conduct a feasibility study. If the study proves positive, funding will then be sought to purchase the properties, then to bring them up to standard, and finally to

furnish and equip them. In total the sums involved are likely to exceed £150,000. Some sources of potential funding have been identified (the Community Land Unit, for the land purchase, for example, and the Big Lottery Fund). Some level of community funds will be required, to the tune of £15,000 in cash and kind in all likelihood.

**Health and Well Being** - the newest SDT sub-group relates to Health and Wellbeing, and has been set up to find ways to encourage people to improve their own health and wellbeing. Led by the instructors of the new fitness suite (funded by OIC and opened in Sept 2005) and the group aims to develop a programme of information and activities to help people get the most of life, whatever their age or ability. This will also involve skills development and training in specific activities so that a wider range of exercise classes can be run on the island. Funding will be sought to assist individuals to undertake training to deliver courses. This will amount to a few thousand pounds and will enable people to acquire nationally recognized, transferable qualifications.

The LDO is currently working with the school to try to extend summer activities provided for young people to include adults too. For example, in the skills survey, archery was identified by the vast majority of respondents as a skill they would like to learn. There is an archery club in Orkney and we are seeking to bring them over to Sanday for a couple of taster sessions for different age groups. By sharing costs and seeking some additional funding we hope to provide a wide range of activities including weaving, magic, trampolining, and hot air balloon making. Sessions for adults and children will be separate and pitched appropriately for each group. Underspend from another project may be able to be used to fund these activities.

The Trust is looking into the purchase of a digital projector and other display equipment in conjunction with the SCA and the school. At present all equipment has to be borrowed from the school, and it not always available during the day when community training sessions and presentations often happen. The total cost of this would be £2,000-£3,000 pounds. Funding sources have yet to be identified.

## **Environment, biodiversity, renewables and waste management**

The “renewables” sub group has set up a framework for a full scale environmental audit of Sanday, to assess how we use resources, net imports, exports and waste. Members of the group are gradually gathering information to input into it. The group is in the process of setting up a weather station, working closely with the school, to monitor local conditions to provide local data to help to inform future energy. The monitoring equipment will be set up in the school and will be able to be used for educational purposes. The cost of the project was £2,338 and was funded from the SDT latE fund, an in kind contribution of £500 by local people, and a grant from SCHRI.

The group has invited both “Keep Orkney Warm” and “Waste Aware Orkney” to Sanday, which has led to energy surveys being done of a number of homes, greater awareness and use of energy-saving light bulbs, and a number of people using green cones to recycle organic waste. It has also contributed a number of “green tips” to the local monthly newsletter, for example on how to make compost, and encouraging people to use the island’s recycling bins and alerting the community to collection points that it has placed in local shops for spent printer cartridges and batteries. One member of the group is working up a recycling project with the school to try to reduce the amount of waste the school produces and raise awareness of the benefits of recycle and reducing waste. The project may require a few hundred pounds of funding for bins and materials.

Future projects include testing the functioning of a solar-air panel heating system in Sanday conditions and comparing its performance with another system already being used in Orkney.

The work of the Sanday Countryside Ranger has done a great deal to increase awareness of Sanday’s environment through the development of a range of walks and an accompanying leaflet (funded by OIC, and produced with input from the local community and the ranger), and a variety of activities and guided walks around the island that have proved very popular with locals and visitors. More detail on the ranger post is included under the heading “Culture and heritage”.

## **Tourism**

SDT, the Ranger and the Sanday Tourism Association (STA) staged a joint public meeting early in 2006 to raise awareness of ranger’s role in helping visitors to access Sanday as well as to promote the wider economic benefits of tourism to the island to encourage more people to become involved in developing high quality goods and services. The LDO has given some hours to assisting the STA to develop its new website ([www.sandayorkney.co.uk](http://www.sandayorkney.co.uk)).

## **Culture and heritage**

One of the first achievements of SDT was to secure funding for a 3-year part time post, (2004 to 2007) for a countryside ranger to encourage access to, promote, and conserve the island’s environment. The appointment has been a great success, with many local people and visitors participating in guided walks, talks, expeditions to ring storm petrels and a “bird race” (spotting the most different species within a set time). SNH, the Rural Challenge Fund, CED, OE, OIC were the main contributors to the estimated costs over 3 years of £40,000. Because the ranger only took up the post in late 2004, some of the funding is being extended for a year to the end of 2008, but some contributions will

need to be replaced. And ongoing funding thereafter will need to be sought in due course.

The ranger has also compiled and edited a leaflet about some of the key sites in Sanday's largely unpublished array of archaeological riches. A local designer did the design and production. The total cost of the leaflet was £950 and was funded by CED, OIC, Historic Scotland and SDT.

Funding totalling £5,000 has been secured from Awards for All and SNH to produce a further 5 information leaflets on World War II (a radar station and around 3,000 troops were stationed in Sanday), birds, mammals and flora, and one produced for young people by young people on Sanday's natural heritage.

Also underway is a funding application for a second phase of the Sanday Oral History project. The Sanday Oral History Project aims to create a permanent sound archive that preserves the voices and reflections of people who have lived and worked in Sanday. Phase 1 of the project involved the creation of the raw records about a whole range of topics including WWII, farming life, collecting tangles, deaths/funerals, the air service, and mobile shops. The interest generated by the project has resulted in plans for a second phase. Phase 2 encompasses covering some further topics (e.g. weddings/celebrations, making butter and cheese, significant buildings and who lived/worked there, the Coastguard unit, life of young people), but is primarily concerned with the publication of the materials in the form of a CD and illustrated booklet, and online podcasts produced by young people. Ultimately, all the records will be lodged permanently in the Orkney Sound Archive in the Orkney Library. The total cost of the project is £15,000 and funds are being sought from the Your Heritage strand of the Heritage Lottery Fund, OIC, and LEADER+, with a cash and in kind contribution from SDT amounting to £2,000.

## **Cooperation, capacity building and sustainability**

Since its inception the Trust has worked hard to develop effective partnerships, both on and off the island. Currently there is a very happy working relationship between the Trust the SCC, the SCA, the STA, and the Community School, with an ongoing interchange of ideas and willing cooperation. Likewise the Trust has established good working relationships with local agencies, other islands in Initiative at the Edge, and a variety of advisers, organisations and funding bodies further afield.

Great effort has been made to set up good systems and principles within the Trust – for example we have written Equal Opportunities and Education policies, and produced guidance for the running of sub-groups and financial guidelines for directors and members.

Where we have come across barriers to progress, whatever they may be, we have endeavoured to overcome them. For example:

- We have had feedback that people don't know what the Trust is doing. Minutes of meetings are posted publicly, but this is clearly not sufficient, so we have stepped up the information we put in the Sanday Sound, and set up a publishing group to produce more and better information bulletins and to develop online information. Funding will be sought for website development training, materials and equipment, including a good quality photocopier, to enable the group to gain the skills and produce a wide range of information that will reach all sections of the community. The costs of this will be of the order of £12,000.
- Progress in some sub-groups is being hampered by a lack of directors able to chair them (a requirement laid down in our constitution) so we have tabled a motion to change the clause to allow any member to lead a sub-group (provided they report back to the Trust effectively).
- Some directors lack IT skills, so we have employed a local trainer to provide one-to-one training, to good effect.
- We felt we were not engaging young people sufficiently, so we have undertaken to make presentations to the Pupil Council. The first one, by the chair of the Culture and Heritage group resulted in young people becoming involved in the oral history project, conducting interviews among their peers and learning how to do podcasting. Also, one of the leaflets planned by the Culture and Heritage group will be produced by young people for their peers.

Finally, the Trust is working on various ideas to ensure that it begins to generate revenue to sustain its activities in future, and to employ staff to further the work of the Trust. At this stage of our development, pump-priming and revenue funding are the hardest to find. It will be some time, however, before the Trust is in a position to be self-funding. At present, basic running costs are of the order of £2,500 pa. The salary and expenses of the part-time LDO are fully funded to the tune of £15,000 pa until the end of 2007 (and may be extended for another 2 years after that), the salary and expenses of the ranger are virtually fully funded at around £13,000 pa (until end 2007).

One idea that is being developed at the moment is the establishment of the "Friends of Sanday" to encourage visitors to the island or those with connections to the island to subscribe to an annual newsletter and support the Trust through donations and endowments. Acquiring assets is another, which is beginning to gather momentum.

**Summary compiled by Rosemary Seagrief, LDO – June 1006**