

# Island of Sanday Development Plan 2005 and onwards

## Introduction

This draft report outlines some initial ideas for a development plan for Sanday looking 10 to 20 years ahead. These ideas stem from a number of meetings among the various groups currently working under the banner of the Sanday Development Group, and a consultation exercise carried out under the guidance of Alan Caldwell Associates, including a highly successful public meeting.

The point of the development plan is:

- to provide ourselves with a clear but flexible framework for island developments that will help us to prioritise individual projects as circumstances change and new opportunities arise;
- to demonstrate to others, such as funding bodies, that we know what we are about and how everything fits into the overall scheme of things;
- to gain the greatest benefit from the Initiative at the Edge status when it comes into effect in September 2004.

The Sanday Development Trust is only one of the players that will make projects happen. It is expected that a variety of groups and organisations on the island will be responsible for furthering different projects including individuals, the Community Council, Community Association, the School etc. etc.

The vision that underlies the plan to date can be summed up as follows:

**“To create an economically prosperous, sustainable community that is connected with the wider world, but remains a safe, unspoilt environment, where we are proud to live, able to work, to bring up and educate our children, to fulfil our own hopes and ambitions, and to grow old gracefully, enjoying a quality of life that is second to none.”**

## The Structure of our Plan

Our plan looks 10-20 years into the future and outlines:

- Our vision of the future of the island;
- Our current situation and the challenges we face;
- The important themes that will guide our work;
- The strategies that will help us achieve our vision;
- The projects and actions that can bring beneficial change.

It also introduces:

- Our organisation, the Sanday Development Trust (SDT);
- Our partners;
- How we will keep our plan up to date;
- Details of things that are already happening.

This is our long-term plan. Each year the SDT will publish an operational plan to identify the agreed priorities for the year ahead.

## Our Vision

Within the next 10 to 20 years we envisage employment opportunities available to all who desire to live and work in Sanday. We intend to build on existing businesses, and to attract and create sustainable new ones, some of them community owned and run. We will explore ways of developing new industries that use and add value to our land and sea resources and local products. We aim to establish a range of quality products and services, with a recognisable Sanday identity, aimed particularly at the tourist market. We envisage the community benefiting from any renewable energy initiatives, for example, through community ownership of windmills.

By creating opportunities for all our young people to work here if they wish to, and by attracting economically active people to the island and keeping them here, we aim to stem and reverse the population decline of the last few decades. We aim to sustain and improve our learning facilities, health provision, shops, post offices and other services.

We will work with local property owners and agencies to improve housing provision, ensuring that there is attractive, appropriate and affordable restored and new housing, in keeping with the character of the island, for all sectors of the

community, with particular provision for those starting out and those wishing to remain independent in later life.

Provision of high quality educational, cultural, social and recreational facilities for all sectors of our community is key in our vision. These include a life-long learning centre, an indoor sports centre, a heritage centre, a youth centre, a community garden, and provision for arts, crafts and music facilities and programmes.

To sustain economic activity, it is critical that we keep pace with advances in technology, particularly communications and renewable energy, and have improved infrastructure and internal and external transport provision. We aim to work with the appropriate agencies and in cooperation with our island neighbours to achieve affordable broadband provision, low cost, renewable and reliable energy provision, and improved air and ferry services, with the latter operating out of the North Isles.

In 10 to 20 years time we hope to see the rich diversity of our natural and built environment more widely known, both to help conserve it and to attract visitors to see it. By attracting researchers from learned institutes to our SSSIs and noted archaeological and historical sites, we will gain greater knowledge of our heritage. By creating an archive, supported by high quality interpretation and display, we will make this knowledge and information available to as wide an audience as possible, enhancing our own understanding of where we live, and bringing others to appreciate it too.

Above all, our vision is built on the quality of life we enjoy in this remote and beautiful place, and the strong community spirit and traditional values that exist here, things we will take care to enhance and not to put at risk as we move forward.

## **Our Current Situation**

Sanday is one of the most northerly of the Orkney Islands. Despite, or perhaps because of its remoteness, Sanday has a thriving and active community. A population estimated at around 500 in 2003, mostly involved in agriculture, fishing, education and services, sustains a junior high school with a roll of more than 90 pupils, four retail shops, two haulage firms, a number of builders, three sub post offices, two hotels/pubs, a hostel, a range of accommodation for tourists, three craft shops (one operating a mail order service), and a busy community centre. A doctor serves the community, assisted by a full-time nurse. There is also back-up relief nursing cover available on the island.

Although the pace of rural island life is slow, there's a great deal of energy in the community. Sanday Community School is central to much of the activity on the

island, both in terms of the excellent education it provides, and also as the focus for a wide range of extra-curricular and community activity that takes place on the site. The school's reputation attracts many families to Sanday.

Enthusiastic volunteers run a wide range of clubs and activities to cater for the needs and interests of Sanday's healthy mix of population. These voluntary activities scratch the surface of the wide skills base that is available on the island.

While the quality of life in this tranquil, well-integrated community (there are many incomers) is high, there are underlying issues that give great cause for concern:

### **Depopulation and age structure**

Sanday's population fell from 533 in 1991 to 478 in 2001 (Census figures). Although this drop of some 10% is less than that suffered by many other islands, and Sanday has seen a recent influx of new families, depopulation is an underlying trend that needs to be addressed.

The age structure of the population also gives cause for concern. The table in appendix 1 compares the age structure of Sanday with islands of similar populations, the Orkney Mainland and Scotland as a whole. While the percentage of Sanday's population aged 0-14 is higher even than Scotland as a whole, our 15 to 44 age groupings percentage is markedly low, and our 45 – 90 and over age groupings are largely higher than the average. This pattern reflects the trend of young people leaving the island to go to secondary education or work and not returning, with little to bring them back or to keep them on Sanday.

Economically active people, many with families, are attracted to the island by the quality of life and the excellent school, but often leave after a short time because of the lack of employment on the island. There is a steady draining away of skilled people.

### **Employment**

At the time of the 2001 census, of the 335 people within the age range defining the economically active (17-64), 216 people were in employment, i.e. 64%. 59 of this age group were retired, 9 were students and 51 were economically inactive. Twice as many women than men were economically inactive, which in many cases may be through choice while they bring up young families, but it is also because of lack of employment opportunities.

There are a number of reasons to account for the level of economically inactive people:

- There are few job opportunities at any skills level, fully able or otherwise. Many who are earning have a number of different jobs – “modern crofting” – in an attempt to make ends meet.
- Many high-skilled people who would be capable of setting up and running sustainable businesses feel they lack the skills or seem to lack the confidence to do so. There is a lack of entrepreneurial spirit.
- Many people seem unaware of the assistance that is available to them through various agencies – for example, business start up assistance – or seem reluctant to use it because of perceived red tape and complicated paperwork.

In some sectors, available skills do not always meet available opportunities (e.g. large building contracts when skilled workers are brought in from outside).

Most the businesses operating in Sanday are well established and have been in existence for 10 to 50 years. By industry, the biggest employers are agriculture and fishing (31% of employed), health and social services (12%), education (11%), wholesale and retail trade and repairs (10%), construction (7%), hospitality (6%), and transport (6%).

With 31% of the working population involved in agriculture and fishing, both industries in long-term decline with fewer, larger farms employing fewer people because of increased mechanisation and fewer boats able to sustain a living, there is real cause for concern for the future prosperity of Sanday's economy unless measures are taken to diversify. The impact of Common Agricultural Policy reform is not known at this stage, but it is likely to have major implications for Orkney as a whole.

While the school's role is high at the moment at more than 90 pupils, it was not many years ago that it was in the low 70s – change happens fast and there is no room for complacency. Since the school is the island's largest single employer, it is in all our interests to ensure that families stay on the island to maintain the school role, and to ensure too, that every effort be made to improve and extend the facilities for life long learning.

## **Transport, telecommunications and other services**

Although the introduction of ro-ro ferries in 1992 vastly improved the ferry service, its cost, timetabling and refit schedule still present many problems for the outer isles, and Sanday is no exception.

- Where jobs are available on Mainland Orkney, ferry and air timetables make it impossible for people to commute to work on a daily or, in winter, even on a weekly basis. This means there is too much reliance on local employment.

- Transport costs for anyone moving themselves or goods on and off the island are high, which adds considerably to the cost of living. Any increase in fuel costs has immediate implications.
- Transport issues also affect a burgeoning tourism industry. Limited capacity places a finite limitation on the numbers who can visit Sanday. During the winter and the refit schedule, capacity is further reduced, hindering efforts to extend the tourism season and preventing a “Winters warmers” scheme such as offered by Westray hospitality providers.
- Getting between islands usually involves travelling via Kirkwall, and in general connections to other services are not well timed.
- The difficulty of making a day return from the mainland during the refit schedule presents problems for business visitors, e.g. suppliers and livestock auctioneers, who may be deterred from coming to the island by time or costs constraints (if they need to come by air). Business opportunities could be lost through this.

In remote locations, it would not be unreasonable to expect top class telecommunications as a matter of course. However, Sanday’s semi-digital exchange is dated and often unreliable, even using ISDN, and landlines are in a poor physical state. Mobile phone coverage is patchy. Broadband is not yet available. Without state-of-the-art communications, Sanday is unlikely to attract the kind of IT- and information-based industries that would be ideal for this location.

Electricity supplies can be unreliable, which is a hindrance to existing businesses and a deterrent to new ones, particularly in the IT industry. Looking into the future and the possibilities of wind farms on the island, there are concerns about linking in with the national grid (at present there are serious capacity limitations).

Waste removal is a perennial problem on Sanday. Building rubble, fencing wire, vehicles and farming and fishing paraphernalia are recognised problems. A scheme to remove scrap vehicles has been shelved in 2003-2004 for lack of local funds. Further measures to deal with waste are needed.

## **Housing**

At the time of the 2001 census 20% of Sanday’s properties were vacant. At present (January 2004) there are virtually no vacant properties or holiday homes available for purchase or long-term rent. Also, a mini property boom over the last year has seen prices rise dramatically. Young, first time buyers, will soon be pushed out of the market. Already people have been deterred from moving to the island because they could not find permanent accommodation.

Looking around the landscape there is a lot of derelict housing. There seems to be little desire to renovate or restore on the part of landowners, despite some agency-led initiatives to renovate properties to provide housing for rent. High

costs of building, connection to services, and access creation are some reasons for this, along with a lack of funds or understanding of how to access available funds. Official grant policies discourage restoration and favour new builds. Conditions attached to grant giving occasionally put people off making improvements – e.g. central heating installation requires having a dwelling harled, which is not only an additional cost, but may also be detrimental to the visual aspect of old buildings.

## **Community facilities**

The facilities available at the Community School are used to capacity. The school hall accommodates a range of community activities from dances, wedding receptions and concerts, to a variety of sports, line dancing, and sales of work. However, the hall is not big enough for most indoor sports, and plans for a separate indoor sports hall are well advanced. Although the community can use the school art/music room during school hours, there are security implications, and there is a need for dedicated facilities (studios, workshops, rehearsal and teaching room, as well as exhibition and performance areas) for the many very talented artists, craftspeople, and musicians on the island.

Although there are video-conferencing facilities, they are situated in the small school library (or in another school room, if available) and the lack of privacy is off-putting to some users. Much more use could be made of a well-sited, state-of-the-art VC and IT equipment, with scope to extend life-long learning through access to institutes of learning.

There is a desperate lack of public toilets on the island (one at Loth, one at Kettletoft), and those that do exist are out-of-date and do not have facilities for the disabled or for baby changing. This presents particular difficulties for visitors, although the locals are very accommodating.

## **Themes for our Plan**

Over the course of discussion at our various meetings, we arrived at a number of themes under which all these issues could be addressed. The order they are in reflects a straw poll of their perceived importance taken at a public meeting on 20 January 2004 (see Appendix 3). This does not necessarily reflect priorities as we move forwards with operational plans year on year.

- Economy (economic development, employment)
- Infrastructure (transport, communications, services)
- Culture and heritage
- Community facilities, leisure and recreation
- Environment, renewables and waste management

- Tourism
- Housing
- Organising our community

In developing projects and actions under each theme the needs of all different age groups will be borne in mind.

## **Strategies to achieve our vision**

To help us achieve our vision we will work together to:

- Take a stake: investing in land, buildings and enterprise;
- Attract inward investment: looking outside our community to attract wealth, skills, enterprises, employment and resources;
- Undertake research and planning: to ensure our work is well informed;
- Seek training opportunities: to develop the skills and experience of local people, businesses and community enterprises;
- Influence others: to ensure funds, policies and programmes benefit the island;
- Work in partnership: with individuals and organisations in the public, private and charitable sectors.
- Networking: we are particularly keen to learn from and build links to other islands.
- Securing/developing loan funding for business and community enterprises

## **Projects and Actions**

### **Economy (economic development and employment)**

Developing and diversifying our economy away from its traditional base of farming and fishing underpins the whole future of the island. Economic prosperity and a wide range of employment is critical to maintaining and growing our existing population and services, particularly with the ongoing downturn in farming and fishing, and the uncertainty surrounding EC policies with regard to these industries.

#### Projects and actions

1. Create community owned state-of-the-art business units, such as:
  - conventional office space
  - a bakery
  - small industrial units for food processing, craft, manufacture
  - local abattoir

2. Conduct a skills survey to establish what skills we have and could develop into economically viable roles and what skills we lack and need to develop or import.
3. Develop a Sanday Brand that is defined by local resources (add value to local produce), skills and quality.
4. Conduct research into what types of activity are most viable and profitable in a remote island environment and how they might best be run, e.g. a co-operative
5. Create jobs
6. Identify what roles might be effectively outsourced to Sanday from agencies based in Kirkwall-based or elsewhere
7. Access high quality advice and information to support businesses, through partners such as Orkney Enterprise

## **Education and Health**

Working on that fundamental principle of the survival of the fittest, the more we invest in our ability to learn and adapt and also in our physical health, the better our community will be able to cope with a rapidly changing world. Provision for life long learning, good sports facilities and health care facilities are critical to our island's prosperity.

## **Infrastructure (communications, transport & services)**

A good infrastructure is fundamental to the health of the island's economy. Without good communications, transport, postal services, health services, education provision, water and power supply, the community would fail. The SDT needs to work hand in hand with the Community Council to ensure that the infrastructure meets present and future needs.

### Projects and actions

1. Constantly review our service, whether they meet current needs, standards and legislation, and whether they are optimally sited. This will inform future developments. Services identified as needing particular attention are:
  - Internal public transport
  - Road network, maintenance and access

- Provision of public toilets (need more around the island, and need facilities for disabled people, nappy changing facilities, showers for visiting yachts etc.)
  - Provision of a marina/moorings/pontoons for yachts at Kettletoft (with water and power points), Black Rock and Ayre. Investigate working in partnership with Orkney Harbour Authorities and Orkney Marina Ltd
  - Provision of garage services
  - Provision of banking services – specifically, issue of banking large amounts of cash for some businesses, and the lack of credit/switch card facilities around the island
  - Provision and standard of building services and the availability of training/modern apprenticeships
2. Ensure that our local health provision remains of the highest standard possible
- Ensure that we retain the services of a resident doctor and a nurse by keeping ourselves informed of current policy and working closely with agencies.
  - Ensure that the island remains an attractive proposition for medical professionals to come to work. Upgrade Flebister House accommodation
  - Investigate feasibility of an island ambulance – the current emergency transport is not adequate. Investigate sources, costs and funding
  - Install video links in Flebister House for consultations outwith Sanday
  - Work with Health Board to ensure community is better informed of aspects of health provision, e.g. more consultation about proposed changes, information about accommodation at Balfour Hospital if travelling to Aberdeen
3. Work more closely with partners such as Loganair, Orkney Ferries, Community Council and Orkney Islands Council, Orkney Enterprise, Housing Association, the NHS etc., to make our needs and desires known and to develop action plans.
- Work through the Isles Forum, Orkney Islands Council, and Orkney Ferries for consideration to be given for improved services to the North Isles and the possibility of ferries to be based in the North Isles
  - Look into improved transport links between islands
4. Support provision of broadband to remote areas (regardless of current levels of indicated take up). The island desperately needs adequate high bandwidth communications, to meet the current needs of many businesses and to attract new IT and information-based businesses.

## **Community Facilities, Leisure and Recreation**

A wide range of community facilities is essential to maintain and enhance the quality of our community life. We must ensure that we can cater for the welfare of all sectors of our community, taking into account the make up of our population, the topography of the island and its remoteness.

### Projects and actions

1. Conduct a community profile review to establish exactly who and where we are and what we need.
2. Sports Hall Project – this project will meet a real need for an all year sports facility. The scope of the project will enable everyone from a wide range of clubs and interest groups within the community to participate in some form of sporting activity all year round. The facility will bring both social and economic benefits to the island. There will be local employment opportunities during the construction period. It is planned that the running of the centre will provide vocational training and employment for several local people in roles ranging from maintenance to instruction and management.
3. Investigate provision of a dedicated youth club - preferably defined by youth for youth. Look into siting this in the proposed Sports Hall.
4. Life Long Learning Centre – although there is a small library in the school, which contains video conferencing facilities, the provision for learning outside formal education is minimal. Creating a user-friendly state-of-the-art centre, including a community library, where all kinds of training could take place – vocational, academic, long-distance or local, research, hobbies or interests, IT, arts, crafts, and music – is a vision shared by many. . Building on the strength of the school, Sanday could become a training/development centre for all of the north isles.
5. Transform unsightly or unused land into community areas e.g. Plant trees and shrubs in Loth Quarry, Create a community garden, improve visual aspects of built up areas

## **Culture and Heritage**

Sanday's natural and built heritage is exceptionally rich, largely unsung, underused, and in some cases at risk. The community as a whole has a wealth of knowledgeable and talented individuals, many of whom are actively sharing their knowledge and skills, many more of whom would like to do so or simply to participate, but don't through lack of facilities, funding or opportunity. Our culture and heritage define the way we live and think and give us a sense of pride in our achievements.

### Projects and actions

1. Commissioning an interpretation audit to identify our key strengths, any access issues, and areas at risk. Identify where we should place information points/interpretation boards and define a consistent design style to be used throughout the island
2. Review the type of heritage centre that would be viable and where it would be best sited. A range of exhibits and information could be placed centrally and direct people to simple displays at different sites round the island, for example.
3. Countryside Ranger – proposals are in place to obtain the services of a part-time ranger for Sanday, who would, among other things, welcome visitors, provide interpretation through talks, walks and other activities, and work closely with local landowners to provide safe access to sites of interest and walks.
4. Identify which sites it might be desirable, possible and safe to purchase and/or restore or develop (The Ness/Orties, Stove, Tresness, Boloquoy Mill, Loth Quarry, Geramount, WWII buildings, Tofts Archaeological site, Rusness Kirk, houses at Start Point Lighthouse).
5. Oral History project – this ongoing project was started in 2003. Local people have received relevant training to enable them to compile stories of local historical interest. Orkney Enterprise funded the project.
6. Create dedicated provision for music and arts – for example rehearsal rooms, small performance/workshop areas, art studios, courses to teach local music and arts
7. History needs collating – in book form, in audio format, expand millennium CD, compile archive

### **Environment, Biodiversity, Renewables and Waste Management**

Fertile land, abundant wildlife, rich seas, a relatively temperate climate (though with vicious winds), and plentiful water supplies have ensured that Sanday has been inhabited for many thousands of years. For life to continue here in the long term, care needs to be taken that we don't overexploit or damage that environment on the one hand, and on the other that we do use all aspects of it to our best advantage.

### Projects and actions

1. Develop an environmental strategy that will safeguard our environment for the future, while allowing economic development, with particular reference to environmental tourism, biodiversity and visual impact of development.
2. Identify and work with partners like Scottish Natural Heritage, RSPB, OIC, academic and research institutes to develop policy and educational initiatives
3. Commission an environmental audit to identify strengths, areas at risk, and potential for research. Make results widely known and put Sanday on the wildlife map and promote its features – seals, sand dunes, SSSIs.
4. Develop a waste management policy to deal with issues like:
  - Use of chemicals
  - Scrap metal (cars and fencing wire in particular)
  - Recycling
  - Community composting - green cones
  - Regular environmental clean ups – more frequent “Bag the Bruck”
  - Disposal of waste oil - both domestic and business
5. Develop a renewables policy to deal with issues like:
  - energy from waste/seaweed/slurry
  - reducing energy consumption in the community
  - maximising income from renewable energy initiatives, e.g. community ownership/management

## **Tourism**

Tourism is an important and increasing source of income in Orkney, with revenues in excess of £20 million a year. By developing our tourism industry in Sanday we will create greater diversity in our economy, create jobs, and exploit our natural assets, and ultimately increase our share of that revenue. At the same time, we need to safeguard our way of life and our environment by careful management and a sound tourism strategy.

### Projects and actions

1. Devolve Sanday Tourism Group from the SDT and set up an independent Sanday Tourism Association. (This is to comply with Inland Revenue criteria in order that the new company – SDT - receives charitable status).
2. Develop a strategic plan that includes a clear identity or brand that can be marketed and promoted to a clearly defined target audience. This will involve:

- Researching target markets and how to reach them most effectively
  - Improving visitor feedback form to obtain high quality information
  - Distributing up-to-date information to potential visitors through leaflets and a new website
  - Working with partners such as local farmers, Historic Scotland, Orkney Enterprise, OIC, Orkney Tourist Board, RSPB, SNH, and VAO.
2. Promote the provision of high quality accommodation, products and services by:
- Identifying and promoting good practice through feedback forms and tourism group meetings and newsletters
  - Identifying skills gaps and implementing a development programme to raise standards among all service providers
  - Encouraging involvement with Tourist Board and participation in the Quality Assurance Scheme run by Tourist Board
  - Identifying new opportunities – e.g. wildlife and genealogy tourism – and making sure we are equipped to exploit them
3. Provide the best experience for visitors by:
- Improving signage throughout the island, but in a way that does not detract from the unspoilt nature of our environment
  - Developing walks and wildlife trails, as part of the Orkney Core Path Network where possible, and improving access to key sites (Quoyness, The Ness/Orties).
  - Developing events to showcase locals goods and talents – for example, extend successful “Sanday Sunday” concept, run art and music workshops using local and imported talent, establish a Sanday Music Festival
  - Encourage development of venues to showcase local goods and talent – art gallery, performance space
  - Developing a range of informational leaflets to add to the very successful Sanday Trail leaflet. Others are planned on key sites or topics, such as Quoyness Tomb, Start Point Lighthouse, and the history of wrecks around Sanday’s shores.
  - Provision of better information about local facilities, e.g.golfcourse, angling in lochs, swimming pool
  - Encourage better transport links/opportunities for visits between islands, e.g. Fair Isle as well as outer Orkney Isles
  - Encourage greater diversification of activity-e.g. bird tours, seal tours, star-gazing.

## Housing

Having adequate high quality housing provision to accommodate current and future demand is fundamental for the health and well being of both the community and the island's economy. At present, Sanday is already in danger of suffering a housing shortage, with newcomers to the island finding it difficult to find anywhere to buy or rent.

### Projects and actions

1. Survey of current housing stock, the demands on it, and level need for more
2. Survey availability and viability of land and buildings that could be used to create further housing and establish ownership
3. Assess future trends of population to ensure appropriate housing stock is created for future needs:
  - affordable for first time buyers/young people/retired people
  - sheltered accommodation for elderly or special needs
  - upmarket housing for higher earners
  - family homes
  - accommodation attached to business premises
4. Identify partners, such as local landowners, OIC planning department, the Housing Association, Scottish Homes, Historic Scotland, Rural Housing Service and other agencies, and establish good links with them for land to purchase, advice, funding, information on legislation and policies, etc.
5. Establish guidelines to ensure new housing is sympathetic to the environment and in keeping with local vernacular architecture.
6. Participate in local housing strategy consultation.
7. Investigate incentives to renovate properties and encourage owners of derelict properties to get it back into housing market for sale or rent

## **Organising our Community**

There is tremendous energy in the Sanday community at present, with many people willing and able to get our ambitious plans underway. We need to tap into that enthusiasm by make sure that we have clear plans, that everyone has an overview of what needs to be done and that they are encouraged and equipped to contribute it any way that they can.

### Projects and actions

1. Launching and promoting the new Sanday Development Trust a company limited by guarantee with charitable status.
2. Securing funding for development staff (consultant or local community agent, a post or paid hours)
3. Encourage ongoing youth input and participation. Workshops are planned for March 2004 to allow pupils and youth groups to contribute to the business plan.
4. Developing skills – many willing to participate in the overall development plan may not have key skills, e.g. participating in or running meetings, writing reports, computer skills, marketing skills, and it is important that these development needs are identified and met
5. Networking – establishing good links with our neighbouring islands, with agencies, with advisors in key sectors etc. will be critical to ongoing success
6. Establishing an office for the Trust that includes business facilities offering photocopying, binding, faxing etc.

## About Our Organisation

The Sanday Development Group (SDG) was formed at a well-attended public meeting in February 1996. The group has developed slowly and methodically, building confidence and experience through its involvement in a number of different projects and investigations. The group has had three chairmen to date, each presiding over various stages of the group's evolution. Currently the group is involved in reconstituting itself as a company limited by guarantee with charitable status, to be called the Sanday Development Trust. The new Trust will have a board of not fewer than 9 and not more than 15 directors, including representatives from the Sanday Community Council, the Sanday Community Association, and Orkney Islands Council. The new company will be formed, with an interim board of directors, early in 2004. The first AGM of the new company will be in March 2004.

Anyone aged 18 or over, whose main residence is Sanday is eligible to become a member. It is hoped that everyone who has an interest in the present and future prosperity of Sanday will participate when it is formed.

In the meantime a steering committee, comprising John McNab, Rosemary Gilholm, Katharine Towrie and Leslie Wilson, and chaired by William Sichel, has drawn up a new constitution/memorandum and articles of association. The Inland Revenue have recently indicated that if we register the Sanday

Development Trust with the changes they have advised then we will receive charitable status.

A number of sub-groups will operate under the umbrella of the Trust, each one of which will be chaired by a director. Members of sub-groups need not be members of the Trust (e.g. under 18s, who are not eligible for Trust membership can participate, as youth representatives, say).

## Our Partners

The Trust will not be working alone, but will develop close relationships with a number of partners, including our neighbouring islands, in particular North Ronaldsay Trust and the Westray and Papa Westray Development Trusts, Historic Scotland, the Housing Association, Keep Orkney Warm, Logan Air, Orkney Enterprise, Orkney Ferries, Orkney Islands Council, the RSPB, Scottish Natural Heritage, the Rural Housing Service, and the Renewable Energy Forum.

## Keeping our Plan up to date

We will keep our plan up to date by:

- Holding an annual meeting/review of our work together (AGM of Trust);
- Setting priorities each year for our operational plan;
- Developing a set of indicators to measure our progress against.

## Things that are already happening in Sanday

The following list outlines some of the developments that have taken place on the island in the past few years and are indicative of an active and involved community.

### Recent Developments and Accomplishments

**First 3-Star Tourism Establishment** – the recently established Ladybank Bed & Breakfast is the first hospitality establishment to achieve a 3-star Scottish Tourist Board rating. Plans are underway to achieve 4-star status within the next year or two.

**Sports Hall Project** – plans for a new indoor sports facility are well advanced, and it is hoped that this project can link in with the council-led initiative to provide fitness centres for some of the islands.

**New Tourism Leaflet** – the Sanday Tourism Group has produced a new leaflet to encourage visitors to come to the island. Plans for a tourism website are well underway.

**Sanday Sundays**– the Sanday Tourism Group instigated a series of events on Sundays throughout the summer, which successfully entertained locals and visitors and attracted a lot of publicity for this island.

**Inclusion in Artist's Trail** – local artist Doug Muir opened his studio to the public as a participant in the Orkney Artist's Trail scheme.

**Oral History Project** – This ongoing project was started in 2003. Local people have received relevant training to enable them to compile stories of local historical interest. The project is funded by Orkney Enterprise.

**Treb Pottery** – started up in 2003 and received funding from Orkney Enterprise. It produces a fine range of hand-thrown, glazed tableware inspired by Sanday landscapes.

**Roo's Loch Project** – This environmental project was undertaken by the Sanday Community Council and completed in 2003 to improve the quality of one of the freshwater lochs on the island. The loch is used for trout fishing and has recently been restocked by Orkney Trout Fisheries Association as a direct result of the improvement works. It is also used by the local model yacht club which holds regattas twice yearly on the loch. The project was funded by Community Development Fund for the New Millennium (CDFNM), Sanday Community Council, Orkney Islands Council and Orkney Enterprise.

**Ayre's Rock** – This extremely dynamic local enterprise opened in July 2002 and continues to expand. Now includes Hostel Accommodation, Camp Site, Take-Away, Internet access and a Craft Shop selling work from around forty local contributors. It received Orkney Enterprise funding.

**Clackson Partners – German Language Services** (established in Sanday in October 2001) have clients throughout Europe and the UK, ranging from multinational pharmaceutical companies, through German engineering firms to Orkney Tourist Board. Clackson Partners is owner funded.

**Bressigarth Tea Rooms** – The tearooms opened in September 2001 and are Privately/Owner funded. This family-run venture, which offers high quality home baking, teas, coffees and light lunches, and evening meals on request, has proved very popular with locals and visitors alike.

**Roadside Shop** – changed hands in 2001 and has been considerably expanded. Some funding was received from Orkney Enterprise but the venture is mostly privately funded.

**Play Area** – This play area attached to the community school was opened in 1998 and was achieved through the Lottery Fund and local fundraising

**Afternoon Club Bus** – This disabled access minibus was purchased for the Over 50s Club in 1998. It was lottery funded and is used weekly. A number of local volunteers have undergone MiDAS training and achieved their passenger carrying licenses to enable full use of the vehicle. It can be hired.

**Market Garden** - established in 1995 supplying local retail outlets with potatoes and other vegetables all year round. Received funds from Orkney Enterprise and Economic Development.

**Sanday Fiddle Club** – This voluntary run group was set up in 1993 and holds an annual 'Summer School', which was funded in 2003 by local fund raising and Talisman Energy Small Grants Scheme, and in 2004 will participate in the St Magnus Festival.

**Swimming Pool** – The pool was opened in 1992 is run on an entirely voluntary basis and is widely used. Funds for this project were from Orkney Enterprise, Orkney Islands Council and over £52000 was raised within Sanday. Volunteer lifeguards are trained locally and examined at NLPQ level, a nationally recognised qualification.

**Orkney Angora** – This extremely successful local business was established in 1982 and goes from strength to strength with a recently updated and well laid-out web site and overseas markets. It received Enterprise funding but is mainly privately funded.

**Sanday Playgroup** – This parent-run local playgroup currently meets on Mondays during term time. It was established in 1980 and is a registered charity. Recently the Playgroup succeeded in securing funding from the BBC Children in Need Appeal to employ a play worker. They also convinced a major shoe manufacturer to donate a set of foot-gauges for determining the shoe sizes of the island's children and adults.

**Sanday Sound** – This highly valued local newsletter is produced monthly and funded by Sanday Community Council and Sanday School.

**Village Hall Scheme** – This long-running annual scheme was originally set up by Orkney Tourist Board. It provides short-term, seasonal employment in the form of an individual being employed to provide light refreshments and games through the summer months for locals and visitors alike. The scheme is now funded by Sanday Community Association and Orkney Islands Council.

**Island Picnic** – This ‘Fun Day’ is organised and run on an entirely voluntary basis and is funded entirely by local fundraising.

**‘Bag the Bruck’**- This annual scheme was set up by Environmental Concern Orkney (ECO). It is supported by Sanday Community Council and Sanday Development Group is hoping to create a complimentary scheme which is run throughout the year.

**Sanday Industrial and Cattle Show** – This was the most Northerly Cattle show in the British Isles until very recently. It has been running for over fifty years and is well supported.

**Community Library** – This was established twenty years ago and comprises an extremely well-stocked children’s section, local history and adult sections.

**Video Conference** – Video Conference equipment is available in the Community Library and is widely used for Distance Learning Courses. Orkney Enterprise funded the equipment.

## **In Conclusion**

We recognise the challenges that face this small island community, and we are confident that we have the energy, commitment and ability to meet them in collaboration with our partners. Sanday has a bright future.

**The Sanday Development Group and Alan F. Caldwell Associates  
January 2004**

## Appendix 1

Extract from the 2001 Census – Age Structure of population

Age Structure of Sanday compared with Scotland, Mainland Orkney, Stronsay, Westray and Eday (from 2001 Census)																			
Area	All people	Percentage of people aged															Mean age <sup>2</sup> of pop in area	Median age <sup>2</sup> of pop in area	
		0-4	5-7	8-9	10-14	15-17	18-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	45-59	60-64	65-74	75-84	85-89	90 & over			
Scotland	506201	5.47	3.54	2.53	6.38	1.29	2.42	6.28	6.21	22.97	19.29	5.17	8.81	5.34	1.17	0.58	38.97	38	
Mainland of Orkney	15339	5.27	3.77	2.58	7.09	1.43	2.81	1.86	4.22	5.77	22.47	20.63	5.67	8.83	5.55	1.45	0.69	39.83	40
Sanday	478	6.49	4.39	3.35	7.11	1.26	1.67	1.05	3.14	3.14	20.71	22.59	6.69	11.09	5.44	0.42	1.46	41.22	43
Stronsay	358	5.87	3.07	4.75	6.98	0.80	0.84	3.07	5.31	18.99	25.14	7.54	11.17	4.19	1.68	0.56	41.82	45	
Westray	563	2.84	3.26	2.66	7.46	0.71	1.62	4.83	2.13	22.56	20.43	7.82	10.12	9.24	2.49	0.53	44.56	45	
Eday	121	6.61	2.48	1.65	4.13	0.80	0.83	3.31	4.13	23.14	24.79	10.74	9.92	5.79	1.65	0	44.06	45	
Footnotes:																			
1 "Age" is age at last birthday.																			
2 "Mean age" and "Median age" are calculated using the underlying single year counts of age last birthday. To estimate 'mean age' including part-years add 0.50 to the value shown in the table.																			

## Appendix 2

### Extract from 2001 census – Occupation by Industry

CAS039 Occupation by industry														
All people aged 16 - 74 in employment the week before the Census														
Geographical level : Inhabited Island - Sanday (CP No.s 193 + 525)														
	ALL PEOPLE	forestry and fishing	electricity, gas and water supply	Manufacturing	Construction	trade, repairs	Hotels and restaurants	communication	Financial intermediaries	business activities	Public administration, defence, social security	Education	Health and social work	Other
ALL PEOPLE	191	60	2	10	14	19	12	12	1	6	6	21	22	6
%		31	1	5	7	10	6	6	1	3	3	11	12	60
1. Managers and senior officials	23	0	0	1	0	7	5	4	1	1	0	0	3	1
2. Professional occupations	16	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	2	9	2	0
3. Associate professional and technical occupations	19	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	3	3	2	5	3
4. Administrative and secretarial occupations	8	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	4	1	0
5. Skilled trades occupations	61	43	1	6	7	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6. Personal service occupations	19	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	5	11	1
7. Sales and customer service occupations	9	1	0	1	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8. Process, plant and machine operatives	8	0	1	0	3	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	1
9. Elementary occupations	28	14	0	2	3	0	6	2	0	0	0	1	0	0
Footnotes:														
1 The industry categorisation is based on the 'UK Standard Industrial Classification of Economic Activities 1992' (SIC92).														
2 'Other' industry includes other community, social & personal service activities, private households with employed persons and extra-territorial organisations and bodies.														
3 The occupation classification is based on the SOC2000 (Standard Occupation Classification).														
4 'In employment' means all people aged 16 to 74 who are working whether full-time student or not.														

## Appendix 3

Report on the Scoring System at end of Meeting of 20/01/2004

### Important Themes

Attendees were request to indicate in descending priority which three themes they regarded as the most important.

Theme	Votes
Economy	23
Infrastructure	22
Community Facilities	16
Culture and Heritage	12
Environment, Renewables and Waste Management	11
Tourism	7
Housing	4
Organising our community	3

### Important Projects

Attendees were requested to indicated in descending order which three projects under each theme they considered the most important.

<b>Environment, Renewables and Waste Management</b>	
Develop environmental strategy	10
Develop renewables policy	7
Develop waste management	5
<b>Economy</b>	
Identify 'Kirkwall' jobs that could be done here	9
Research good business ideas	6
Develop a Sanday Brand	5
<b>Tourism</b>	
Defining Strategic Plan	14
All other projects	1
<b>Housing</b>	
Survey current housing stock & need	13
Establish building guidelines	5
Assure a range of housing for the future	3

<b>Culture and Heritage</b>	
Heritage Centre Project	17
Countryside Ranger	4
Identify sites to restore/develop	2
<b>Organising our community</b>	
Launch a new Development Trust	12
Develop skills within Sanday	6
Establish good links with other islands	2
<b>Infrastructure</b>	
Improve transport links to other islands	16
Preserve health provision	7
Work towards basing boats in islands	3
<b>Community Facilities</b>	
Transform unsightly, unused land into community areas etc	11
Sports Hall project	7
Establish Sanday as life long learning centre and Youth club (equal)	4