Development Plan For the Island of Shapinsay 2011-2015



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Shapinsay Development Trust

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The Development Plan is a strategic document which outlines the key areas for project development over the next four years. It also gives a summary of the work of the Trust over the previous two years and the policies and monitoring principles applied by the Trust in selecting projects and carrying out its work. This Development Plan considers the timeframe from 2011 to 2015 and will be reviewed annually each summer so that the progress in its implementation can be presented to the Community at the AGM in September.

This Plan has been created based on the foundations set down in earlier versions (Development Plans from 2006, 2007/8, and 2008/9), Community Survey Report (commissioned by Highlands and Islands Enterprise) from July 2010, 'Our Sustainable Community Action Plan' prepared during a Sus it Out Plus session in May 2011, and consultations with residents of the island.

It has to be recognised that the areas in which the Trust can be active are governed by the Memorandum and Articles of Association which make up the Trust's constitution. It equally has to be recognised that there are other constituted organisations with a very strong interest in achieving aims similar to those of the Trust. The Trust is working in active partnership with the Community Association, the Community Council, the Heritage Trust, and the Tourism Group. True to effective partnerships everywhere, as determined by relative strengths and spheres of influence, sometimes the Trust leads and sometimes it supports and follows. development plan 2011–2015 INTRODUCTION—about this development plan

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Shapinsay, with an area of a little bit more than 11 square miles, is the eighth largest island in the Orkney archipelago. It is located 5 miles east of Kirkwall, the main town in mainland Orkney, to which links are provided by the Ro-Ro ferry MV Shapinsay (operated by Orkney Ferries). The island is low-lying and fertile, and its economy is primarily based on agriculture with the exception of a few small businesses that are largely tourism-related. Shapinsay has a population of around 300 of which over 20% is over 65 years old. Many of the population of working age commute to work to mainland Orkney on a daily basis.

Strengths, weaknesses and threats

An assessment of current situation on the island helps us to identify strengths on which we can build but also weaknesses that we need to address in our plan.

Strengths and Opportunities

[©] Diverse clubs and groups © Fitness suite and Community Centre ☺ Good Shop © Friendly Community ⊙ A local Pub © Community Council, Development Trust ⊙ Lots of island events ☺ Good Community School ☺ Bird reserve RSBP/SWT ⊙ Variety of habitats (woodland, heath land, Craigs, sea-shore) [©] Bag the bruck [©] High quality agricultural sector ⊙ Art and crafts sector [©] Increasing tourism sector ⊙ Active and growing building sector ⊙ Number of young, economically active families

☉ Space, solitude and peace

Weaknesses and Threats

Not enough Youth projects ♦No Drop in Centre for different age groups Transport outside the ferry hours not accessible to all ◆The cost of freight ♦ Shortage of workforce Increasing cost of travel ♦No community composting ♦No public transport ♦Not adequate technology infrastructure ♦No access to training ♦ Some areas not accessible easily ♦No path network Not many natural wildlife reserves ♦Not good enough waste

management

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Shapinsay Development Trust grew out of the Shapinsay Development Group which was formed in 2002 after consultation with the island. In 2003 the Trust formed as a company limited by guarantee (Company No. SC255127), and registered as a charity in September 2003 (Charity No. SC034818). The Trust's main role is to be the vehicle through which the islanders can collectively help to maintain and improve their lives on the island of Shapinsay. In this task the Trust follows its vision and principles.

Our vision is to ensure the sustainability of life on Shapinsay, our island which we perceive as a place where ...

Our local environment is protected, enhanced and enjoyed by all; This island culture remains distinct from the Orkney mainland; Renewable energy sources and technologies enable us to become energy self-sufficient; The population is balanced and economically active; We are well served by transport links; We enjoy the highest quality of essential services;

Our heritage, birds and wildlife are protected;

And children and adults thrive within the community.

Principles governing our action:

To promote the highest quality in everything we do; To be an enterprising community who learn from best practice; To build on our own capacity as a group and as a community; To work with and support local groups and projects; To measure our progress as a group and as a community; To encourage local ownership and control of new projects; To utilize, promote and enhance local skills and experience; To involve our community at every opportunity; To pursue integrity, dignity, respect and tolerance in our work; To attract local investments in local projects;

To maintain and enhance local, natural and built environment.

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The big story over the past few years has been the Community owned wind turbine installation. The turbine was delivered to the island and erected in August 2011 and we are now getting ready for its commissioning and later on for producing green, clean electricity. The income from the turbine will be used to support different projects which will help the island to become more sustainable and thriving. One idea which the Trust is keen to explore is the creation of a multi-purpose hub (*an Island Hub*) which could meet the needs of a range of individuals and groups, for example: an ICT facility for open access, respite care or drop in facilities for all age groups.

In April 2011 we celebrated the opening of the newly refurbished Play Park—another project completed by the Trust with the help from our community and different funders.

In February 2011 the Trust organised a presentation of the results of home surveys of sixteen houses (completed in cooperation with Orkney Energy Centre) together with some practical insights from different specialists in the field of construction and housing. This event marked the end of the 2nd phase of the Powerdown initiative funded by the Climate Challenge Fund. A Community Powerdown Officer who was responsible for the delivery of the project was also involved in setting up and purchasing materials necessary for the Shapinsay Community School Polytunnel Project.

In the summer of 2010 the Trust completed a Community Survey Report for the island of Shapinsay that was commissioned by the Highlands and Islands Enterprise. The Survey provided the most recent and reliable information about the situation on the island, people's aspirations and expectations in relation to community life.





Education and Learning

The Challenge—How can we, as a community, provide high quality training and lifelong learning that is easily accessible?

 Monitoring the training of local residents to ensure that the community has people capable of continuing Fire Brigade and ambulance service.

ONGOING

 Six people to have or be improving their skills or increasing their economic options through access to courses and business development support.

September 2013

Develop an ICT facility on the island for open access.
 The timescale will depend on an Island Hub facility

Culture, Heritage and Environment

The Challenge—How can we, as a community, improve at welcoming visitors and recognising the value of sharing our heritage and natural environment with others so that Shapinsay continues to be vibrant island culture ?

Shapinsay Ranger Service that will include such ideas as: establishing working partnership with the RSPB education officer; enhancing/interpreting areas of wildlife significance; creating field guides for visitors; exploring the feasibility for sitting a web cam at strategic wildlife viewing places (in cooperation with the Tourism Group).

Paid post by 2013

• Increase public toilet provision (in cooperation with Community Association).

By the end of 2015

 Provision of household energy saving measures and micro renewables.

By the end of 2013



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• Oral history project—to try and capture as many recordings and transcriptions as possible regarding Shapinsay folks lives (in co-operation with the Heritage Trust).

By the end of 2014

Recreation, Community Facilities and Local Services

The Challenge—how can we, as a community, retain and improve existing facilities and support and develop new ones ?

- Island Hub to provide respite care during the day and relaxed, social drop in facilities for all age groups.
 By the end of 2015
- Work on the feasibility of a marina (in cooperation with the Tourism Group).

The timescale depends on Tourism Group plans

- Create a fund to support local clubs and organisations.
 Spring 2012
- Information/waiting room facilities at the Pier (in cooperation with Tourism Group).

The timescale depends on Tourism Group plans

Enterprising Community

The Challenge—how can we, as a community, enable the development of expertise and strategies that will build on local enterprise initiatives?

 Service Point Provision—giving on-island availability of information and services.

By the end of 2012

Create an investment fund.
 March 2012



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- Establish a business incubator and support services (establish a support for two new enterprises).
 By the end of 2015
- Research to measure the additional costs attached to island living.
 By the end of 2014

Young People

The Challenge—how can we, as a community, improve quality of life for our young islanders and create strategies that will increase their involvement within the community?

- Funding for a part-time Youth Worker.
 The timescale depends on an Island Hub
- Renew links with the Eco-School Council with a view to establish a Children's Council linked to the Development Trust.
 September 2011

Housing

The Challenge—how can we, as a community, achieve an adequate supply of affordable, high quality and green housing which will enable us to retain our young people and encourage others who will develop our economy to move to the island?

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- Conduct a feasibility study of a Gateway House.
 By the end of 2012
- Undertake a land and housing availability survey.
 By the end of 2013





Elderly Care and Support

The Challenge—how can we, as a community, improve care and support for elderly members of the community?

• Investigate feasibility of befriending/visiting service for elderly or infirm people.

By the end of 2013

 Research Day Centre and respite provision options together with other local care needs.

By the end of 2012

Transport

The Challenge— how can we, as a community, provide better transport options for all residents?

Establish Community Transport Service.
 By the end of 2011

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• Undertake local transport audit. **ONGOING**





2011

- **September**—Renew links with the Eco-School Council.
- **By the end of the year**—Establish Community Transport Service.

2012

- **March**—Create an investment fund.
- **Spring**—Create a fund to support local clubs and organisations.
- **By the end of the year**—Service Point Provision; Conduct a feasibility study of a Gateway House; Research Day Centre and respite provision.

2013

- **September**—Six people to have or be improving skills or increasing their economic options through access to courses and business development support.
- **By the end of the year**—Shapinsay Ranger Service; Provision of household energy saving measures and micro renewables; Undertake a land and housing availability survey; Investigate feasibility of befriending/visiting service for elderly or infirm people.

2014

• By the end of the year—Research to measure the additional costs attached to island living; Oral history project.

2015

By the end of the year—Increase public toilet provision;
 Island Hub to provide respite care; Establish a business incubator and support services.

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ONGOING

• Monitor the training of local residents to ensure that the community has people capable of continuing Fire Brigade and ambulance service; Undertake local transport audit.

Projects depending on other projects/groups

• Develop an ICT facility on the island for open access; Work on the feasibility of a marina; Information/waiting room facilities at the Pier; Funding for a part-time Youth Worker.



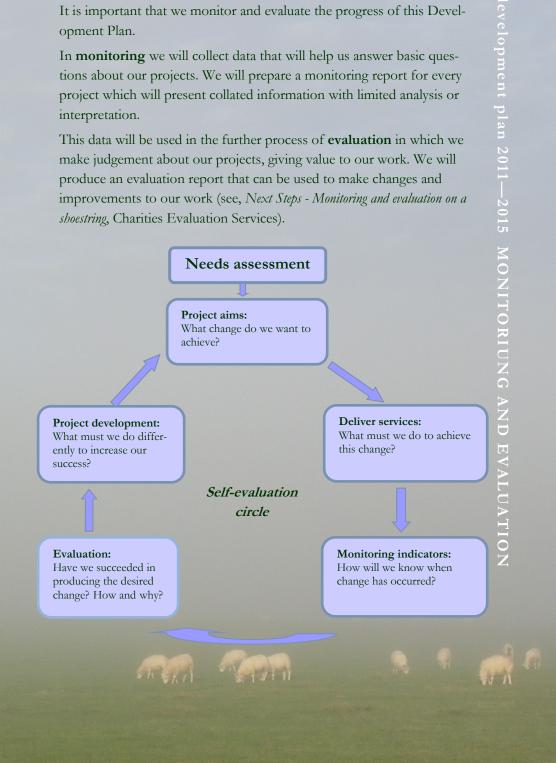




It is important that we monitor and evaluate the progress of this Development Plan.

In monitoring we will collect data that will help us answer basic questions about our projects. We will prepare a monitoring report for every project which will present collated information with limited analysis or interpretation.

This data will be used in the further process of evaluation in which we make judgement about our projects, giving value to our work. We will produce an evaluation report that can be used to make changes and improvements to our work (see, Next Steps - Monitoring and evaluation on a shoestring, Charities Evaluation Services).



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Sustainability is a word mentioned frequently by funders, politicians and others with little consideration given as to what it means in practice. There are various aspects that should be considered when evaluating whether an individual project is sustainable and the impacts of that project upon the sustainability of the community of Shapinsay. These issues are relevant at both the project design and implementation stages. It has to be recognised that there will be projects that are considered necessary for our community that will not fulfil all these requirements.

The Trust in its projects looks at such areas:

• Economic: how to minimise running and maintenance costs. Ideally the project is able to generate a source of income to cover running and maintenance costs.

• How to minimise the overall environmental impact of any work carried out.

• How to design/implement projects in ways that, if possible and relevant, increase the abilities and skills within the community of Shapinsay.

• How to design/implement projects in ways that, if possible and relevant, increase the connections between Shapinsay and the wider community.

Selection of Projects

In its selection of projects the Shapinsay Development Trust is governed by a number of factors.

• The objects clauses of the Memorandum and Articles of the Company determine the areas in which the Trust is authorised by law to act.

• The acts of the Trust are governed generally by the requirements of company law and charity law. The Directors are obliged to protect the interest of the charity at all times.

• In order to protect the charitable status of the Trust all projects must be considered charitable in the eyes of the law. The law applicable is section 7 & 8 of the Charities & Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005.

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development plan 2011-2015 APPENDIX 1-selection and implementation of projects

• The issues of sustainability as identified above must be considered. Community and partnership support for projects must be agreed at the earliest opportunity.

Implementation of Projects.

When considering how to implement projects selected by the above process the Shapinsay Development Trust will:

• Consider the sustainability of the approach to be taken.

• Where possible and permitted by the requirements of funding bodies employ local labour and resources.

• Will look to see how other community groups have carried out similar projects so that we can learn from their experiences.

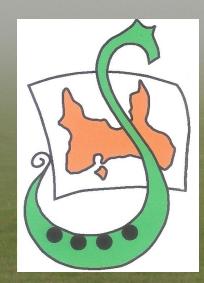
- Will keep all relevant stakeholders and partners advised as to our actions throughout the implementation of the project.
- The Trust will also ensure that our policies on equal opportunities, anti-discrimination and disability are referred to at all stages.

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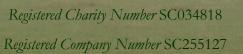
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