

Development Trust minutes Sanday plan meeting

Minutes of the Sanday Plan Review Meeting by the Sanday Development Trust at Heilsa Fjold on Monday 3 September 2012 at 7.30 p.m.

Present: D Grieve, L Brown (vice chairman), R Towrie, E Williams (treasurer), R Gilholm, J Towrie, S Thorne, M Dearness, M Stockton, R Brown, S Towrie (chairman)

In attendance: U Clackson (clerk); J Kenny (Heilsa Fjold Manager); R Thorne (ranger), G Ellis (CDO), P Allan (Sanday tourism and business group), J Taylor (admin and finance officer), K Howe (admin and finance officer)

Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence had been received from S Clackson and H Collinson

The only agenda point for this meeting was to review the Sanday Plan. This is the central document identifying desired outcomes for Sanday in some detail and translating these into operational targets, some of which may be pursued by Sanday Development Trust and others by other Sanday organisations. Updating this document is the task of the CDO with input from the Trust, other organisations and the public. The headings in these minutes correspond to chapter headings in the draft Sanday Plan 2012, which is an update of previous versions.

Economy, Employment

The SDT is supporting private enterprise with information, e.g. the website.

Some prospective entrepreneurs found it difficult to access population statistics and other information about Sanday.

It was felt that the website needed more content.

Some found the website "misleading", probably promising too much.

The CDO is responsible for updating text on the website, while more difficult features are provided by our website manager (who can be contacted via the CDO).

Action: The chairman promised to encourage the school and the surgery to provide more content and to send it to the CDO.

Other groups and Sanday businesses are responsible for providing material for their own representation.

Internet connectivity in Sanday is not adequate for Internet-based businesses.

The suggestion was made that the SDT should assist in making contact between prospective business people and individuals in Sanday who might be able to provide the relevant information.

Transport Infrastructure

As lack of fast broadband connectivity holds back business, the SDT plans to continuing lobbying for improvement.

Action: In collaboration with the SCC, the CDO on the behalf of the SDT is charged with continuing to lobby our MSP, Liam McArthur, for modern standard Internet connectivity.

Action: The CDO is charged with organising "summit meetings" of the leading functionaries of the SDT, SCC, SCA and the STaBG where this and other joint issues can be organised.

Community facilities, Leisure, Recreation

The use of the Heilsa Fjold cafe and youth drop-in centre was discussed at some length, problems described and suggestions made in addition to those suggestions for improvements which had been gathered from those currently employed at the cafe.

Current use: Knit 'n' natter (on alternate Thursdays), occasional office use, Café&WIFI (expected to be improving thanks to the newly employed IT assistant), Junior Drama Club (Wednesday afternoon), Senior Drama Club (Saturday morning)

The general impression was that the young staff members were too inexperienced to make a good job of running a café, let alone a profitable cafe, and that adult supervision was needed.

The suggestion was made to increase adult supervision, possibly by involving parents as volunteers as well as interested directors.

The suggestion was made to have the cafe run as an independent franchise with an obligation to employ young Sanday people.

The opening hours were regarded as too restrictive.

Information about what is on offer at Heilsa Fjold and opening hours is not sufficiently readily available. Suggestion to advertise on ferries.

The SDT has obtained grant funding which is used for covering much of the costs of employment for 3 young people all working part-time in the cafe.

One further young person is currently being trained in the operation of the recording studio.

Some report that the younger school children feel that the youth centre does not have much to offer for them.

Action: The chairman promised to provide adult help and supervision herself over a number of Saturdays in the near future.

Changes in the operation of the Centre are currently under consideration.

Many in the board regarded the employment and training of young people as a very important feature of the Youth Centre even though it is not in its express aims.

The promoters of the future Heritage Centre in the old Temperance Hall asked the board, despite the difficulties of running a cafe at Heilsa Fjold, not to prevent the operation of a café at the Heritage Centre in the future as a help to fund the Centre. The board felt that Sanday should be able to support two tea/coffee rooms and therefore that should remain an option.

Culture and Heritage

The ranger's services are very popular. The SDT should make sure that the ranger post is continued.

The suggestion was made that the SDT could support an "artist in residence".

P Allan reported that he is frequently asked by young people in the summer holidays if there was an option to stay in Sanday for some time while working for board and lodging. He suggested that such an agreement would make an "artist in residence" relatively affordable.

Housing

The suggestion was made to ensure that sheltered housing for the infirm is provided.

This might be better done by the SCC (summit meeting).

Tourism

The observation was mentioned that "Visit Scotland" has been largely sidelined by most Orkney tourism service providers. Most operated in a framework provided by the "Orkney Tourism Group".

Environment

The wind farm funding has not yet become available to the SDT.

Special rubbish collections are a necessity and normally organised by the SCC.

Recycling will be supported by means of "alternate weekly collection", where on one week recycleable waste is collected and on the other non-recycleable waste. Alternate weekly collections have been decided by OIC and will be introduced in Sanday in due course.

Building capacity

This should be achieved by keeping the Sanday Plan updated in annual discussions and exchange with others organised by the CDO.

The suggestion was made to treat Trust subgroups and other organisations basically the same. This suggestion was met with considerable resistance.

AGM date

The 13 November was provisionally chosen for the AGM (to be held in the community room). This date depends on the accounts being available and approved by that date.

Action: The clerk is to book the community hall for the 13 November.