



# Tagidder Shetland

E – Newsletter

Issue 13

March 2008

## Community Planning Board Meeting

Welcome to Issue 13 of the Community Planning e-Newsletter. This issue follows the CPB meeting held on 10th March 2008.

### The Community Planning Board Meeting; Highlights

Those present on the 10th of March were given a great deal to think about. Not only were they presented with a draft Shetland Single Outcome Agreement, proposing a new approach to working between community planning partners, local government and national government. They were also presented a paper on the restructuring of the community planning board itself to align with the delivery mechanism of the Shetland Single Outcome agreement. The new proposal for the CPB is a two tier structure whereby there would be an enhanced CPB who met twice yearly only, initially to endorse the Single outcome agreement and choose 6 key priorities for Shetland which could be achieved within a year. Once the 6 priorities have been chosen, a small executive CPB, who are chosen based on the 6 priority areas, will monitor the priorities monthly to achieve their delivery. This executive will be refreshed yearly, based on the changing priority areas, therefore keeping the CPB focused and enthused.

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### The Single Outcome Agreement

Shetland Islands Council, with the Scottish Government and in Partnership with Community Planning Partners now have a draft Single Outcome Agreement. First Draft must be submitted, by the 31st of March 2008, to the Scottish Government. There will then be a 3 month period of consultation before the final document is to be signed. Should you wish more information on the Outcome agreement, please

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## **Remote Working – Ever thought about trying it?**

Working from home or another public place nearer to home is probably something that a lot of us think would be really fine, but, having thought about it, never actually do anything! Over the past year, a team was working to introduce a set of Guidelines on remote working and to try to encourage more employees to consider whether they could work remotely. This article features some of the work that we carried out. In order to get an idea of how much potential there was for remote working, we used the Council's Payroll and Human Resource system to identify how many people commute to their work in Lerwick. The results were quite surprising. They showed that at that time, over 800 employees were travelling to work in Lerwick on a regular basis. Of course, not all of these staff were able to carry out their duties from remote locations. You can't provide care for elderly clients in a Care Centre, teach pupils or clean Lerwick's streets from your home! However, when we looked at it, we felt that there was potential for around a quarter of those jobs to be carried out from locations outside Lerwick.

We then had a go at raising this with staff and their managers, to see whether they had considered working remotely. The feedback we received was interesting, with a number of staff already doing some form of flexible working and others feeling they couldn't do this owing to things like ICT issues, the need to access confidential files etc. It was clear from this process that remote working will suit some, but not others. A few staff who have successfully managed to work from remote locations set out their stories below.

### **John Williamson – North Roe**

John Williamson from Capital Programme Services used to face a 76-mile round trip to Lerwick and home each day. However, he agreed with his manager to work from home for 1 or 2 days a week, depending on projects. He commented, *"I suppose the biggest issue that stood in the way of me working from home was the computer software that we use. As an engineer we tend to use some quite specialist software located on the network. Fortunately access has not really been a problem as we ironed out any issues with ICT's help. The main benefit to me is the time and cost savings of not having to travel to work. I save 2 hours per day in travel time and about £8.50 per day in fuel. Another benefit is that the working week seems shorter due to the fact that it is broken up by the days you spend working from home. For those of us who have a long journey to get home, every day you work from home is like a Friday when you finish work an hour earlier. I would certainly recommend it to anyone interested."*

### **Anona Hughson – Baltasound School**

Anona from Waste Services works 2-3 days each week from the Baltasound JH School, depending on the type of work she's doing. She

## Remote Working – Ever thought about trying it?

commented, *“I was slightly concerned at first about being isolated from the office while I was in Unst. However, we keep in regular contact by e-mails or calls while I'm up there. I also had a problem finding an area in the school that I could use where there was a network connection to the Council drives and intranet, but we resolved that. I prefer to go to an office/Council building rather as work from my house because you need a good connection for your computer. It's really frustrating trying to open or save documents if you don't and I only have a dial-up connection at home”.*

As well as cutting travel time, carbon emissions and saving you a bucket load of petrol money, remote working can help you to balance work with other priorities, such as childcare. Denise Bell and Elaina Leach have found that to be the case.

### Denise Bell – Sandwick

Denise works from her home on Wednesday each week. She said that she had a few initial concerns about this. *“Firstly, I was conscious of the perception that this might be seen as 'not really working'. There is maybe a culture of 'attendance = performance' in the Council. Secondly I was concerned that I would find not being around would put pressure on my team and make life difficult for them. It took around 3 months for this to start to feel okay and realise that my fears were more imagined than real. I work well at home and find that just one day a week of working in a peaceful environment allows me to deal with routine administration and reports. A benefit from my home life perspective is that I can visit the school with my children in the morning or at home time and feel more a part of this aspect of their life. It also means no mad drive home at 5pm to get to the nursery before it closes at 5.30pm!*

### Elaina Leach – Ollaberry

Environmental Health Officer Elaina, feels that the time she saves is more valuable to her than money saved. She said *“I have found it particularly useful to work from home when I perhaps have an appointment with the school about one of the bairns or one of them has a dentist appointment in Brae. When working at home I actually get more work done and have more time to do work than if I had to travel into Lerwick and back twice. The Council also benefits as I haven't needed very much time off. Knowing that I have the option to work flexibly really helps me manage working full time with having three bairns”.*

If you are interested in looking at remote working, you can access the Guidelines through the following link to the Council's intranet site.

[www.sic.gov.uk/services/personnel/guidance-notes/documents/GuidelinesonRemoteWorking.pdf](http://www.sic.gov.uk/services/personnel/guidance-notes/documents/GuidelinesonRemoteWorking.pdf)

*For any of the information held within Tagidder*

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**If you would like**

**more information**

**concerning the**

**remote working**

**guidelines please**

**contact the policy**

**unit on 01595 744538**

**Or**

**policy@shetland.gov.**

**uk**



## Convention of the Highlands and Islands to Join Government Economic Forum



Scotland's Highlands and Islands are vital to the Government's aim to increase sustainable economic growth, First Minister Alex Salmond said today as he moved to strengthen the region's representation on the National Economic Forum.

The First Minister was speaking at the Convention in Shetland where he also undertook a number of visits on the island as well as chairing the afternoon meeting of the Convention.

Mr Salmond said:

"The Highlands and Islands have a vast amount to offer as a place to do business. The quality of life, the quality of the workforce and the quality of the area as a tourist destination are second to none.

"There is no doubt that the whole of the Highlands and Islands have a crucial role to play if we are to achieve my government's goal of increased sustainable growth. Already, we have reformed and refocused Highlands and Islands Enterprise, we are delivering the Small Business Bonus to cut or eliminate business rates for small businesses, and we are supporting the local authorities to freeze council tax levels.

"However, we must do more if we are to match the UK growth rate by 2011, and in the longer term join the arc of prosperity which surrounds Scotland's shores. We must ensure we are drawing on the full strengths of all parts of Scotland. The Government's Economic Strategy - which unites the whole of the public sector behind our goals - makes that clear.

"The Convention of the Highlands and Islands provides vital engagement between the government and representatives from across the region. But we believe it can make an even greater contribution to economic policy for the whole of Scotland.

"That is why today I have asked the Convention to nominate two representatives to take up places on the National Economic Forum. This will give the Highlands and Islands a clear channel through which to raise issues of importance that the diverse communities of the region face. And it will ensure that the Highlands and Islands are given the fullest possible consideration as we plan Scotland's future economic prosperity."

For more information about any of the articles in this edition of Tagidder Shetland, please contact Laura Saunders at the Policy Unit on 01595 74 372 or email [laura.saunders@shetland.gov.uk](mailto:laura.saunders@shetland.gov.uk)

## Welcome Point Initiative

February saw the launch of an innovative project at 4 Pitt Lane, which aims to welcome new migrants to Shetland. Over 30 people turned up to the launch – from Thailand, Poland, Bulgaria, Norway, Spain, Ukraine, Hungary – and enjoyed the international atmosphere and buffet.

The **Welcome Point** came about as a result of Inclusion Research carried out last year by the SIC's Policy Unit with support from Adult Learning, the Shetland Council of Social Service and NHS Shetland.

The research identified that migrant workers and settled residents who speak English as an additional language had developed some important networks of support. However, there was need to expand networks, to provide opportunities for befriending, to provide information and to help people access specialist help from other services.

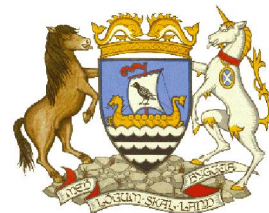
In October the Adult Learning Service appointed Nati Aldazabal as a graduate placement. Nati has experience of working with migrant workers in Spain and had been working in Shetland when the opportunity came up to apply for the graduate placement post to promote inclusion and celebrate cultural identity.

Nati has worked with partners to respond to the Research findings and the **Welcome Point** is now in place as a result.

The **Welcome Point** is open on Thursdays from 6 – 8 pm and on Sunday afternoons from 2 – 5 pm at the Bridges base at 4 Pitt Lane, Lerwick (formerly Arts Trust) Nati arranged posters in the 5 languages spoken by inward migrants in Shetland at the moment – Polish, Hungarian, Chinese and Russian and Hindi

The project is looking for volunteers who would be willing to attend one or two sessions a month, and who enjoy helping people to get to know Shetland and where to get help if they need it.

Get in touch with **Nati Aldazabal** at Adult Learning at the Old Library Centre (**telephone 01595 743888**) if you want more information or could volunteer to help at the project.



Shetland Islands Council





**National No Smoking Day 12<sup>th</sup> March 2008.** On this day, each year, smokers are encouraged to down fags for a day. This year it is the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of National No Smoking Day and to celebrate this all smokers are being set a challenge to quit for a full week. That's not all. While gaining all the health benefits for their selves and their families they can also be sponsored and raise money for a charity of their choice.

By quitting for one week smokers will

- Clear the Carbon Monoxide from their bodies
- Oxygen levels will rise so they will have much more energy
- Blood Pressure and pulse rate will turn to normal
- Breathing will become easier as their bronchial tubes begin to relax

All this for just one week - what a deal! You never know - you may just STOP altogether.

For more info on how to take part go to [www.nosmokingday.org.uk](http://www.nosmokingday.org.uk) or phone 020 7739 5110.

#### Did you know?

- Over 13500 people die every year from tobacco use in Scotland - that would fill Ibrox football stadium 4 ½ times.
- Tobacco use is the leading preventable cause of death in the world.
- Smoking causes a very long and growing list of diseases including cancer, and chronic diseases.
- The risk of developing smoking – related disease increases with how long and how much someone smokes. These risks fall substantially if smoking is stopped, even for long-term smokers.

NHS stop smoking sessions are free and take place every **Wednesday at the Clickimin Leisure Centre between 5.30pm and 6.30pm**. For more information about quitting smoking you can phone the Smokeline on 0800 84 84 84 - 7 days a week from 11am to 11pm or go to the website - [www.canstopsmoking.com](http://www.canstopsmoking.com)

For more information contact Rachel Stewart, Health Improvement Practitioner, on 01595 743388 or <mailto:rachel.stewart@shb.shetland.scot.nhs.uk>

## **Shetland Development Trust supports Community Learning Network**



Shetland Islands  
Council

Shetland Development Trust is pleased to confirm that following yesterday afternoon's Trust meeting; Trustees' have agreed a three-year funding package of £70,000 per annum to the Shetland College for the purpose of maintaining and delivering the Community Learning Network.

The Community Learning Network provides vital services within rural Shetland, with Centres' in seven locations around the isles. The Network aims to provide access to comprehensive and quality learning programmes and acts as a key support mechanism to people who are looking for advice, studying for SVQs, e-learning and various courses within a welcoming and supportive environment. Over 460 students in 2006/7 were using the services across Shetland and enrolment figures are continuing to grow.

George Smith, Principal of Shetland College said, "Shetland College is delighted that the Shetland Development Trust has been able to support this project and recognises that the Learning Centre Network contributes to the sustainability of rural communities. The Network has been a huge success so far and our enrolment figures are continuing to grow, providing essential localised learning for people around Shetland. It will be important to continue to develop the range of courses available in the learning Centres over the next three years allowing learners to access further and higher education courses through Shetland College's partnership with the University of Highlands and Islands."

For more Information, contact Shetland Arts Trust on -  
01595 74 4969  
or alternatively  
the Shetland College on 01595  
771000

## **Careers Scotland Relocate**

## **Careers Scotland**

Careers Scotland have moved from the Toll Clock Shopping Centre to Charlotte House. Young people and adults who would like to access Careers Scotland services should call at their reception desk which is presently located in the Job Centre Plus Office. Callers should use the Fort Road entrance. The Commercial Road entrance is for wheel chair access. The telephone number remains the same as before Lerwick 695791.

