

# **STRONSAY DEVELOPMENT TRUST**

## **THE STRONSAY SURVEY 2006**

### **Analysis of Survey Results**

Our partners:	Orkney Enterprise The Crofters' Commission	Orkney Islands Council Communities Scotland
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## Introduction

During the life of the Stronsay Development Trust, the community of Stronsay has been consulted on a number of occasions on its view of the future of the island, and on specific issues relating to Trust activities. In the Spring of 2006, the Board recognised the need to do two things: first, to design a consultation exercise which explored views on a wide range of issues potentially affecting the island's future, and to collect ideas and comments. The second imperative was to establish both the skills which exist within the community and to collate people's expressed learning needs. To these ends, an island survey was designed and circulated in August 2006 to all permanent residents over the age of sixteen.

## Notes

- 300 surveys were distributed by post and hand delivery. Stamped addressed envelopes were enclosed
- 56 surveys were returned, of which 13 were returned without the skills survey being completed
- 6 blank surveys were returned
- The response rate was 18.6%
- The Amenities section was omitted from the original survey and circulated separately: the response rate on this section is only slightly lower
- In the following analysis, figures given are **actual** responses not percentage responses
- When the ideas/comments were extracted verbatim, the list ran to 45 pages. It would have been unrealistic to publish the whole list so, while not ignoring any comment, the list has been rationalised and, where an idea or comment is identical or very similar, one has been given to represent duplicates. Where there have been a number of similar comments, the total number is given in brackets. However, all sub-groups have the full list of comments to inform them in their discussions.
- The Trust undertook not to identify individuals in the final analysis. There are therefore some comments where blanks have been inserted to ensure this

## Acknowledgements

The Board would like to thank the Sanday Development Trust for allowing the Trust to use their Skills Survey as a template, and to Orkney Enterprise for their valuable input. It is also very grateful to all those residents of Stronsay who returned their surveys for taking the time and trouble to complete them, and for providing a wealth of ideas and opinions.

## RESPONDENT PROFILE

### Gender

<b>Male</b>	31	<b>Female</b>	25
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### Age group

<b>16-19</b>	2	<b>45-59</b>	15
<b>20-24</b>	1	<b>60-64</b>	9
<b>25-29</b>	1	<b>65-75</b>	7
<b>30-44</b>	16	<b>75+</b>	4

### Length of residency on Stronsay (years)

<b>&lt; 1</b>	5	<b>17-20</b>	4
<b>1-4</b>	17	<b>21-24</b>	1
<b>5-8</b>	6	<b>25-28</b>	0
<b>9-12</b>	5	<b>29-32</b>	1
<b>13-16</b>	2	<b>33-36</b>	1
		<b>Always</b>	14

## AMENITIES

### Accommodation

1. Is there adequate self-catering, B & B, hotel and hostel accommodation on the island?

Yes **19**                      No **21**                      No response/don't know **10**

If no, could you provide any of these?

Yes **3**                      No **25**                      No response/don't know **22**

If yes, please give details

- already providing b/b or full board
- B & B but only as a last resort

### Information

1. Would you like to see more (discreet) signposts and information boards?

Yes **30**                      No **13**                      No response/don't know **7**

If yes, what should be signposted?

- Monastery Island, Catholic Church (2)
- places of interest (3)
- beaches (5)
- walks (3)
- Lamb Head (3)
- all houses, farms and crofts (4)
- toilets at Community Centre
- all roads
- paths around fields
- visitor facilities e.g Bird Reserve
- amenities
- archaeological sites
- local flowers
- birds
- shells
- wild life
- one for swimming pool
- Community Centre needs 2 boards
- shops (2)
- kirk
- main road
- heritage sites
- view points

Where should these information boards be sited?

- at entrance to path/track (2)
- South School
- pier (4)
- airport
- Vat o' Kirbister parking area
- main map in village followed by small route maps at turnings
- road junctions (2)
- information should be available in a booklet available in Orkney's hotels, B & Bs, tourist offices, library, information centres
- at sites of interest
- Community Centre (outside) (2)
- at intervals along a walk, so people know they are on the right track
- at shops
- at sites indicated on a properly produced map of Stronsay, showing lots of interesting features – walks, heritage, buildings, wild life etc
- [Lamb Head] close to cattle grid up Housebay drive, with information on both archaeological and natural objects (2)

2. Would you like to be included in the Island Information section of a new updated Stronsay leaflet?

Yes **7**                      No **32**                      No response/don't know **11**

If yes, please give details

- already in existing leaflet but happy to go in another
- Post Office and crafts
- shop opening times etc.
- church information – historical/architectural as well as current service times might be of interest to some visitors

### **Leisure activities**

1. Is there a need for more walks on Stronsay?

Yes **21**                      No **17**                      No response/don't know **12**

If yes, please give any ideas to improve existing walks or to provide new ones

- discreet markers to show where they start
- walks to Lamb Head
- more coastal paths indicated/maintained (2)
- Rothiesholm Head, the Ace and Huips Ness
- probably enough walks if people knew where they were welcome to walk
- improve existing walkways e.g. Vat by the sea
- walks should be kept in good order (2)
- people should not be able to go wherever – farmland is private and dog owners in particular can act irresponsibly by not keeping animals under control
- one starting and finishing in Whitehall village and mainly off the main road (2)
- short, disabled routes and long/mid distance for both able and disabled bodies

- more walks on island
- open a proper gate through the fence to St Catherine's beach
- more circular walks could be signposted (2)
- recognised and signposted footpaths (2)
- the walk round the cliffs at Rothiesholm could do with removal of old barbed wire in places. Path also needs improvement in places

2. Would you like Stronsay to have an Island Ranger, providing guided tours for visitors and as a point of reference for residents and visitors?

Yes **30**                      No **14**                      No response/don't know **6**

**Comment:** perhaps seasonal and part-time

3. Would you like to see our lochs developed for fishing and bird watching?

Yes **35**                      No **9**                      No response/don't know **6**

**Comment:** fishing only. Birds like the areas as they are otherwise they wouldn't be there!

4. What other leisure activities could be provided for residents and visitors?

- astronomy – winter tourism
- cycle hire (2)
- better public bar
- restaurant facility (2)
- boat hire
- more bird or seal hides
- horse riding
- water sports (2)
- canoeing/kayak hire
- boat/fishing trips (5)
- have swimming pool opened more during holidays
- tennis courts
- café at hall?
- caravan site with proper facilities
- 'themed' breaks (e.g. archaeology, fishing)
- minibus tours if weather not so good
- cycle routes
- bridle paths
- wind surfing
- power kite flying
- cinema
- fitness/sports facilities (3)
- golf course (3)
- bowling green
- bird watching (John Holloway)
- provision of the healthy living centre
- how about a sporting event like a half marathon or a Stronsay Triathlon?

## Arts and Crafts

1. Would you like to see a Craft Trail on Stronsay?

Yes **25**                      No **10**                      No response/don't know **15**

**Comment:** if things are sold centrally there is no need for a craft trail

If there were a Craft Trail, would you like to be included in this?

Yes **6**                      No **26**                      No response/don't know **18**

2. Would you like to see an Arts & Crafts centre on the island?

Yes **25**                      No **9**                      No response/don't know **16**

**Comment:** [craft trail/arts & crafts centre] unrealistic

If there were such a centre, would you be prepared to:

display work **6**              help in staffing it **10**              No response/don't know **34**

Where do you feel it would be best to site such a centre?

- the village (16)
- it would be nice to see it up through the island somewhere, instead of the village
- near school/Community Centre
- in an existing old nice building, not the old Fish Factory
- in a nice converted barn – not a new build

## Facilities

1. Are there enough parking places for visitors?

Yes **24**                      No **15**                      No response/don't know **11**

If no, where should these be sited?

- the pub needs a car park (2)
- Mill Bay (5)
- Housebay/Lamb Head
- north end of island
- lay bys by lochs for bird watching
- ..site for motor caravans with a small charge to go back for community funds. Camping should not be allowed in car parks for walks
- village
- near beaches and walks/archaeological sites
- when there is an event at the hotel, can they use the pier?
- pier end development/marina might worsen situation
- at beaches
- at pier (would also be helpful for residents leaving cars overnight)

2. Is there a need for more toilet facilities for visitors?

Yes **12**                      No **21**                      No response/don't know **17**

If yes, where should these be sited?

- South School
- south end of island (4)
- central
- Rothiesholm (2)
- just better signposts for the existing ones
- opening hours/days and cleanliness are just as vital
- the Vat, Airy walk (?), Housebay (2)
- we need to give visitors something to come and see or do before we need toilets

3. What other facilities could be provided for visitors?

- maintained area for overnight camper vans, camping (6)
- lunch time food and drink every day
- another public bar/restaurant (pub meals @ reasonable prices/tea/coffee place
- book shop
- more picnic benches (2)
- seats on pier or in village
- bicycle hire (2)
- waste bins for rubbish
- shelters near toilets
- a bay at Whitehall in which all can enter without health jeopardy owing to sewage outlets in use!
- "bus" tour of island with drop off/pick up points at walk sites
- afternoon café service, esp. in winter
- the external appearance of the Fishmart is not inviting to visitors, either as a heritage centre or as an eating place. It needs a radical smartening up

### **The Environment**

1. What could we do as a community to protect/enhance the island's:

visual beauty

- remove scrap cars etc (8)
- site turbines remotely
- plant trees (4)
- stop building wind turbines
- encourage people to pick up litter – even when it's not theirs! (4)
- provide a proper dump (2)
- repair walls and fences
- plant wild flowers and bushes
- harbour marina/garage
- keep the sky line free from industrial development
- stop people putting rubbish out too early as the birds rip the bags
- don't allow too much building or development (4)
- this is a balancing act between moving forward and keeping the past



- keep car park or street lights to a minimum
- don't mow the verges just when the birds are nesting and orchids are flowering – or mark the sites to be avoided!

#### wild life

- encourage farming for wild life
- reduce feral rabbit, cat and hedgehog numbers
- keeping their habitat safe (2)
- produce a 'wild life' map and more information
- write a book about it
- we don't know what we've got!
- drive slower
- best left alone – if it's here already it has what it needs
- access to lochs
- take great of what we have. Wardens would help. Education is vital

#### tranquillity

- discourage noisy sports
- be careful of how the island is developed
- balance economic necessity with sensitivity
- turn car radios down and turn off when doors or windows are open
- never forget the sacredness of tranquillity we have that others visit for
- benches to admire surroundings
- horse and cart!?
- have a 30 mph speed limit on the whole island

#### lack of pollution

- more recycling (4)
- remove rubbish (2)
- have more waste bins (3)
- ask [Royal] Bank of Scotland to remove their neon sign!
- collect recycling for those who cannot get to pier head
- provide a proper dump (3)
- clean up sewage outlets in village (sewage treatment plant) (4)
- dispose of our waste quickly and with responsibility
- keep car journeys to a minimum (2)
- burn clean fuels
- more care needed by farmers with the black bale wrap/silage covers etc (2)
- people who take dogs to the beaches could clean up after them! (2)
- train the youngsters not to drop litter
- more frequent special collections (with no limit or decreased costs per item)

#### historical sites

- encourage formation of interest group
- fence them off until they can be looked into properly (2)
- identify and document, then protect while encouraging access (2)
- develop archaeology
- excavation and information needed (2)
- locate and expand

- don't try to move them all inside. They are part of the island as they are, they won't mean much if moved (2)

Other

- dark skies – avoid light pollution

### **Any other thoughts?**

- an island 'tourist brochure' would be useful – showing things like walks, interesting flowers, wild life habitat, historical sites, shops, etc.
- encourage people on island to embrace change
- there is (or seems to be) a great fear of change. It will be difficult to persuade residents of the need to introduce, sensitively, change in order to sustain any future community in Stronsay
- community education should be properly supported, promoted and sustained over years – not be an ad hoc annual lottery
- we have to strike a balance between development and sustaining Stronsay's natural strong points. [a named English county] has got the balance wrong and the natural beauty is being destroyed by too many houses, too many roads and too much tarmac. It has become a giant tourist theme park and Stronsay mustn't do the same. We must meet the needs of locals who live here all the year before the needs of visitors who, while being important, mustn't be considered first



## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

### **Agriculture**

1. Do you see any potential for the farming industry on Stronsay to diversify into other areas?

Yes **21**                      No **20**                      No response/don't know **15**

If yes, what ideas do you have?

- anything that can start small – new business is risky business
- horticulture (4)
- to carry on much as it is if enough people can be kept in it
- meat stock (e.g. pigs)
- more exportable produce
- all these schemes i.e. birds, set aside etc, don't help to sustain the haulage, marts, machinery dealers, feed suppliers and are bad for an island (2)
- marketing a Stronsay brand of meat, eggs etc (3)
- farmers could exchange fields to stop constant running around the island. This would save fuel and keep costs down also traffic
- hot house flowers
- recycling (2)
- bio-degradable energy (3)
- self-catering (3)

- with climate change, variety of crops or crops for fuel
- individual breeds
- oil seed rape
- willow
- rhubarb farming, maybe a canning factory too. Stronsay rhubarb could be world famous

2. How do you see the future for farming on the island?

- stable (10)
- not very bright
- might be essential as world population increases
- if CAP continues to head toward a free market, farming on Stronsay would be nigh impossible
- bigger farms with less people working the land (14)
- greater diversification – offer working holidays on a farm particularly during harvest, calving, lambing
- would like more crofting land available to smallholders and community grazing land
- more opportunities for young people to train in agriculture
- it can work. People will always need food but it is a time of change. It needs young blood and enthusiasm and office skills!
- unfortunately farms bought by people who do not farm
- changing
- questions like this need to be answered by people who actually know the present situation. I feel quite strongly that these types of questions being answered by people who nothing or very little about the respective industry will misinform the results

### **Fishing**

1. Do you see any potential for the fishing industry on Stronsay to diversify into other areas or increase the market value of its catch?

Yes **15**

No **13**

No response/don't know **28**

If yes, what ideas do you have?

- fish farming (8)
- start up the lobster ponds
- they could brand the Stronsay name and all work together (2)
- promote fishing trips
- fresh fish, caught locally, should be available to islanders on a daily basis to purchase (6)
- giving areas a rest to allow for the sea to restock
- looking for a market for things eaten abroad

2. How do you see the future for fishing from the island?

- not very good (11)
- if stocks are handled correctly, then it should remain okay

- too many with boats fishing that don't need to do it taking the catch from people that need to do it (2)
- too many boats chasing too few shellfish
- swamped by regulations
- needs to be developed for local community benefit i.e. an island fishing boat fishing for those on island who can't fish for themselves
- as it is
- it will probably be in salmon rings or cod farming
- it would be good to see it expand

### **Aquaculture**

Do you see aquaculture playing any part in our island moving towards a sustainable community?

Yes **18**                      No **10**                      No response/don't know **28**

If yes, what ideas do you have?

- a fish hatchery
- more local produce or export to GB/UK – and products that flow from this – crab cakes, paste, pate etc
- this would probably need expert advice to identify fish/shellfish suited to this area
- cod and haddock farming/shellfish farming (9)
- only if cheap energy can be sourced from wind turbines
- may give employment but must be in keeping with surrounding buildings, landscape
- I don't know enough about this but it looks a promising idea

### **Industry**

1. Which of the following would you like to see on Stronsay? Please tick as many as you wish, and add any ideas of your own.

bakery **40**                      small units for business use **30**

car mechanic **36**              engineering workshop **27**

blacksmith **18**                vet **34**

No response/don't know **5**

Other

- more shops – fishmonger/craft shop – wool etc/second hand shop, book shop
- gift shop
- a monthly vet's visit would be a help especially for pets clinics, inoculations etc. Perhaps with a bit of owner co-operation this could be worked out amongst ourselves (3)
- could possibly share blacksmith and vet with Eday/Sanday?
- hairdresser (2)
- producing sea salt – desalination plant

- plant nursery growing hot house vegetables
- recycling
- craft shop/studios (2)
- call centre
- anything that does not require heavy goods being transported
- tool hire (with experienced tradesperson advice). Link to craft training/work etc
- boat workshop/storage if a marina (2)
- a small business advisory service/mentoring to new ventures
- [bakery] I think they would struggle to get enough business
- hardware/lumber/building and garden supplies

2. If a seaweed processing plant was set up on Stronsay, which of the following would you be prepared to contribute to its running?

gathering seaweed **13**

processing seaweed **5**

transporting seaweed **6**

No response/don't know **37**

3. If you have an idea for a small business, please specify:

<b>Idea</b>	<b>Help needed</b>
• second hand book shop/craft shop with internet access and coffee/tea facilities	planning consent and perhaps a grant for conversion of building
• gift shop	premises and financial training
• desalination plant using tidal power	financial and project management
• producing seaweed fertiliser	
• I would like to start up my own business doing everyone's farm books e.g. IACS papers, calf scheme, some things that college does	to get enough farmers to trust me with their paperwork money to get started
• home produce – jams etc	
• recycling furniture and mechanical spares	donations from folk and a decent sized shed to work from
• Stronsay china	
• restoration of dry stone walls	

- craft (textiles) with historical/ archaeological bias
- hairdresser/manicure room/small building, training, equipment
- mushroom farming in currently derelict buildings do up some derelict buildings
- some self-catering accommodation would be useful and needed do up some derelict buildings
- use home grown barley for a small scale malting/brewery/distillery perhaps run on “historical” techniques/methods as a tourist attraction. Very few distilleries malt their own barley (Highland Park is a rare exception). Could perhaps use energy from wind turbine and peat from Rothiesholm. Farmers might need to grow a different variety of barley
- there is a need to locally produce aggregates training and funding
- conference centre/retreat use renovated building

4. What barriers to, and opportunities for, business development do you see on the island?

Barriers

- high freight costs (13)
- location (3)
- slowness of movement
- lack of facilities
- small community – lack of customers (5)
- a general lack of enthusiasm from islanders (8)
- lack of people to employ
- EU regulations
- no provision for locals to borrow cheap money to even buy existing businesses
- irregular ferry timetable
- capital investment (4)
- bright, enterprising people tend to leave
- poor internet connection
- expensive flights from Kirkwall to Stronsay and mainland to and from Scotland and England

Opportunities

- IT

- better advertising/web sites/branded produce for on-line sales
- redundant properties
- unique selling point of an island
- growing demand for goods/services offered by “unusual”/green sources (e.g. Findhorn) (2)
- island location (possibly cheaper facilities)
- low crime
- low pollution
- exploitation of natural resources
- develop new business/enterprises that serve the island community and promote Stronsay
- few present businesses mean opportunities are there, if supported
- to keep a young community (2)
- as the planet slips into a worse and worse environmental crisis, places like Stronsay become more and more attractive as places to live

### **Information and Communication Technology**

We believe that we could make more use of Information and Communication Technology on Stronsay to enhance our way of life or to be a possible source of employment. What ideas do you have that could help achieve this?

- faster broadband (4)
- great potential for employment in IT if it is possible to get the right contacts
- internet café (4)
- encourage homeworkers to base themselves here
- IT facilities incl. internet available to all residents
- training available in IT skills (2)
- call centre (2)
- computer lab

What barriers currently exist to hinder this improved usage (e.g. lack of training, poor connection etc.)?

- lack of interest
- poor broadband and mobile service (4)
- any lack of training could be addressed when the specific training required was identified
- broadband connection seems to be fairly reliable
- funding
- cost of broadband
- lack of facilities
- training (good training!) (3)
- broadband speed >512k
- might be limited by the telephone exchange?
- better connection speed would be a benefit but not essential for activities like software development
- internet should be accessible over whole island

### **Horticulture**

We want to support and build on Stronsay’s existing horticultural and market

gardening activity. What would make this possible?

- people interested in doing the work
- local demand (2)
- sell produce at right price
- use in catering in island
- more land
- subsidised poly tunnels and transport (5)
- set up a horticultural co-operative (3)
- outlets encouraged to “buy local” and market prominently (7)
- advertising, encourage smallholders to do a little
- farmers market
- heated glasshouses to ensure all year round production (2)
- financing/grants
- have training in this area on Stronsay
- wider market for sales
- finding the right crop varieties for the climate, and then the market for them. Surely we can market Stronsay rhubarb. I have never seen it grow anywhere as well as it does here
- the use of renewable energy to increase the growing season

#### **Any other thoughts?**

- may be possible to advertise “Sooth” to see if any small businesses would consider re-locating (as happened with Stronsay China). This could include things like telephone marketing, teleworking, anything connected with computing where all you need is a phone line to access the world!
- what about recipe cards – not everyone knows what to do with a courgette! If you could get a recipe with the ‘veg of the week’ or a jam recipe for fruit maybe it would encourage folk to try something new
- Stronsay seems to be a very fertile island, and therefore abundantly suitable for market gardening

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## **HERITAGE**

### **Local History and Culture**

1. We already have a museum in the Fishmart. Is this adequate for our – and our visitors’ – current and future needs?

Yes **20**                      No **23**                      No response/don’t know **13**

2. Would you like to see an agricultural museum recording Stronsay’s farming history?

Yes **33**                      No **9**                      No response/don’t know **14**

3. Would you like to see more public information available about Stronsay’s history (e.g. leaflets, information sheets, etc.)?



Yes **37**                      No **3**                      No response/don't know **16**

If yes, what would you like to see?

- booklet (18)
- a book (3)
- internet (2)
- more comprehensive literature
- SS Athenia lifeboat restored and displayed in suitable building
- [agricultural museum] I think the Fishmart covers all this well (2)
- a lot of people visit from overseas – a map of the graveyards would help them (2)
- anything as long as it is professionally produced
- a greater promotion of Stronsay's past linked with guided tours to sites of interest (2)
- video
- talks/lectures
- plenty of info in Fishmart and Kirkwall archives
- better display and availability
- information gathered from old residents on Stronsay
- more on archaeological sites

4. If you have any knowledge of any aspects of Stronsay's recent or not so recent history (even if it seems unimportant), would you be willing to have it written down?

Yes **4**                      No **5**                      No response/don't know **21**

Not applicable **26**

### **Archaeology**

1. Do you think more information should be available about our archaeological sites?

Yes **36**                      No **4**                      No response/don't know **16**

What ideas do you have?

- archaeological sites should be protected (2)
- Lamb Head would be interesting
- booklets showing where they are, how they lived etc (13)
- I'm sure there are a few archaeological sites never been explored and would be very interesting to find out about
- get sites surveyed and recorded (possibility of university or similar doing a 'dig?') (5)
- write a book about it
- the ones on Papa Stronsay are wasted
- it would be nice if Stronsay had at least one archaeological site for people to visit
- ..at the moment there is very little information available about Stronsay
- find them!
- guided tour available in holiday season (3)

- other islands seem to have made more of their heritage. Maybe a heritage trail with a map and information boards

### **Buildings, Artefacts and Sites**

1. Would you like to see research done on our very old buildings, artefacts and sites?

Yes **34**                      No **4**                      No response/don't know **18**

Why?

- not historically important
- important to keep them
- lovely farm buildings
- many sites not researched
- it would be interesting (8)
- so much is still known by many older folk but has never been written down. Also much info in archives etc could be recorded locally
- part of our heritage and needs to be done before information is lost (9)
- should more buildings be listed?
- anything that is unique to an area should be preserved
- for our own and other young people and ourselves
- this would promote and encourage a wider interest in Stronsay and open the island to more tourists (5)
- big interest from Canada etc
- knowledge
- it is important to preserve them for the future
- because it helps to interpret/understand the island

Do you know of any interesting examples of such buildings etc.?

- Holland Farm
- the Old Manse (5)
- wash through toilets
- several kiln barns
- Yearnasetter Chapel
- Bomasty
- the Old Mill (5)
- old coal barge
- the boat shed and flush toilet in the village should be "preserved" and not moved. I feel this would be destroying part of Stronsay's history. How interesting would a standing stone be if it was polished and put in a shed!
- some of the large farmhouses
- the old forge at Holland Farm (if it's still there)
- any buildings that still have slab and grass roofs
- important stone work
- the 11 Lower Station roofless ruin owned by the monks was the last of the early 19<sup>th</sup>C settlement there and should not have been allowed to get into its sorry state
- the South School should be sold by OIC and renovated
- old church/chapel sites

### Family History

1. Are you interested in the family histories of Stronsay?

Yes **25**                      No **15**                      No response/don't know **16**

Have you undertaken research in this area?

•

Yes **7**                      No **31**                      No response/don't know **18**

2. Would you be interested in helping to set up a genealogical database?

Yes **8**                      No **27**                      No response/don't know **21**

If yes, who might benefit from it?

- any descendants (7)
- I do think it would be of interest to others
- interest is already international in Scottish genealogy: we are missing a trick
- youngsters and folk from abroad (4)
- locals and visitors
- publishers
- research students of all ages
- web connectors

### Any other thoughts?

- [Fishmart] it's ok but not dated in many cases – historical purists would shudder
- [agricultural museum] this should be incorporated in a good museum
- history is heritage. The archaeology of Orkney is the main attraction for visitors – more needs to be done to highlight ancient and historical sites on Stronsay
- I have qualifications in archaeology and would like to see more research into archaeology of Stronsay
- Heritage could include wild life, conservation, geology etc. Is there potential for a Study Group covering all aspects?
- I would like to see a map of the island with all farms, houses etc named and the derivation of the names – some very odd! As the older generation dies out much of the information could be lost
- a central point for accessing all local heritage information would be useful – in written and/or computer form – possibly in Fishmart?
- we haven't even scratched the surface in this area. We only need to look at what other islands have done, as a contrast
- [genealogical database] should include all residents
- already lots of info on web, uncertain of range and accuracy
- [genealogical database] we need to be careful such a system might already be in place and we do not wish to stand on anyone's toes!

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## HOUSING, TRANSPORT AND SERVICES

### Housing

1. Do you see a need for new housing on Stronsay?

Yes **35**                  No **12**                  No response/don't know **9**

If yes, what type of housing?

- 2 bedroom houses
- council houses
- affordable for first time buyers/renters (21)
- flats for people wanting to leave home
- for working people (2)
- half way housing
- family housing (2)
- there should be grants to improve older housing stock to be divided so more household units are created and price/rent is lower than new build (3)
- individual private
- there is no point in building houses unless there is work for the people who are living in them

2. Would you like to see Stronsay Development Trust own and rent out properties for the community's financial benefit?

Yes **33**                  No **10**                  No response/don't know **13**

3. Would you like to see improvements to Stronsay's unoccupied houses?

Yes **35**                  No **3**                  No response/don't know **18**

If yes, what ideas do you have?

- leave it to owner's initiative
- a working team to repair/renovate old properties – and train the young folk (6)
- give the owner an offer they cannot refuse to sell or renovate or rent
- various derelict houses to be bought up by the Trust and renovated
- approach owners to see if they are prepared to rent/sell property
- would like to see fewer second homes owned by those who just spend a few weeks here (2)
- renovate all old properties (7)
- a lot of farms have houses on their land which could be sold/rented once done up
- make building new houses more difficult than renovating existing ones by tighter planning regs. There are lots of houses that could be done up for this purpose (2)
- self catering housing is needed so they could be used for this
- offer assistance in restoring the properties and clearing their immediate surrounds of any rubbish
- rented out for families/persons or tourists if not wanted by community

- develop for affordable housing to buy or rent for the community
- I simply don't like to see places standing empty and deteriorating
- with the possibility of purchasing
- better to build to build more energy efficient houses
- those in village would house business below/flat above – attract tourists and provide housing together

4. Is the lack of affordable rented accommodation in Kirkwall a barrier to someone from Stronsay wishing to train or undertake an apprenticeship there?

Yes **24**                      No **7**                      No response/don't know **25**

What other barriers exist?

- lack of daily transport to mainland to fit in with working/college day (4)
- separation from family which increases desire to leave permanently (2)
- travel maybe, but if you really want to do something you will do it somehow
- public transport around mainland is not good, and youngsters are very young when they go. The hostel ought to be open to 16-18 year olds in apprenticeships etc. They could pay towards their keep
- limited number of apprenticeships

5. Would you like to see a 'Gateway House' on Stronsay?

Yes **28**                      No **15**                      No response/don't know **13**

If no, what difficulties would you foresee?

- concurrence with the B & B, hotel and the Fishmart which provide for accommodation already
- cost, administration, finding work
- one would probably not be enough
- wait until we know the result of the Eday pilot. It could just be folk shuffled about the housing market/difficulties
- it is no good living in rented accommodation if no work is available (4)
- would need process for management/monitoring
- would get people on benefits moving in (2)
- however must learn from other similar projects. Big difference in time of year chosen for the 6 months. Presumably priority given to those coming with needed skills?
- I think people should be sure of what they are doing beforehand. We need committed people. There are too many applicants for most jobs anyway
- if there was more than one applicant bad feeling might arise between families who were accepted and those refused
- what happens after six months? Unless this was a person/family with particular skills needed in the island or ability to purchase a home here straight away it could be difficult for them to find accommodation afterwards or difficult to "encourage" them to move on after six months

## **Transport**

1. Would you like to see improved public links to/from Stronsay?

Yes **31**                      No **13**                      No response/don't know **12**

If yes, what ideas do you have?

- we should consider this after we raise our population a bit
- move pier to the point of Rothieshom
- more ferries and flights at reasonable cost (4)
- for the plane to arrive around 9 a.m. and to leave Kirkwall about 5 p.m. more often
- I think the air and sea services are excellent but they must run to suit local businesses and hauliers as we all rely on those people (3)
- faster direct ferries to mainland, for residents and visitors, at cheaper rates especially for vehicles (6)
- timetable enabling commuting to mainland and other islands (5)
- no cutbacks in the present service (2)
- pier at Stursy (3)
- early sailing on a Monday so KGS pupils can stay home (2)
- base a ferry on Stronsay, not Kirkwall (3)
- if all islands (Westray, P. Westray, Eday, Sanday, N. Ronaldsay, Stronsay etc) linked by quick low cost/comfortable regular links (mostly ferry, but air or bridge also) then major tourist growth might be encouraged. But not all residents really want too many tourists! (2)
- large or more frequent planes – they are often fully booked
- winter and refit timetables that allowed a return trip on a Saturday
- plane service very good. Ferry summer schedule good, winter not so good and refit period hopeless!
- possibly cheaper and additional flights from Kirkwall to aid with business growth or ability to work in Kirkwall and live in Stronsay

2. Would you like to see more transport facilities on Stronsay?

Yes **15**                  No **19**                  No response/don't know **22**

If yes, what ideas do you have?

- cycle hire provided like in North Ronaldsay (3)
- Dial-a-Bus for dances and maybe weekends
- probably not feasible to have a Dial-a-Bus but possibilities for a subsidised taxi service – perhaps on set days or times
- Ranger minibus
- a community vehicle available for hire/use by residents who do not have a vehicle of their own
- minibus service to ferry and both shops (free or minimal fare esp. for elderly and infirm) (8)
- I think we maybe need to improve the facilities we have already
- Taxi/bus/bicycle for visitors especially finding their way to various walks or sites away from the village (3)

3. Do you think having our ferry based in Stronsay would be of benefit to the island?

Yes **22**                  No **15**                  No response/don't know **19**

If yes, what would be the benefits?

- depends on how much we can it subsidised
- earlier departure to Kirkwall for those wanting to work on mainland (8)
- employment opportunities (7)
- possibility of an enhanced timetable (5)
- crew based on island (8)
- more families, more kids (3)
- easier for the haulage driver (2)
- Saturday return trips

If no, what are the disadvantages?

- this would be a huge disadvantage to tourism (4)
- problem finding a crew willing to live on Stronsay (3)
- don't see any purpose (2)
- cost?
- tradesmen would not want to come out here for work and if they did the price of the job would go up with the overnight stay!
- early leaving every morning
- fewer direct links with Kirkwall

### Services

1. Which of the following would you like to see on Stronsay?

marina **17**                      slipway **16**                      care home **17**

mains sewage (village only) **23**      Citizens Advice Bureau **1**

No response/don't know **5**

Other

- more home carers – people rarely want to be in a home
- [marina] current facilities do not encourage yachting visitors (e.g. shops, restaurants, tourist attractions)
- plant to take the hardness out of the water
- centre for tourism
- wet weather gear/bikes
- guide
- less power cuts
- better broadband access
- library – books, videos, CDs etc

### Other comments

- one day a week/visiting CAB

2. The results of earlier surveys suggest that our community feels very strongly about the retention of a resident GP and nurse. In view of proposed changes to this service, has your opinion on this issue altered?

Yes **2**                      No **47**                      No response/don't know **7**

If yes, why?

- feel even more strongly that we should have a resident GP and nurse

If no, what action, if any, would you like to see employed by the Trust? (e.g. further lobbying, investigating the feasibility of employing our own GP, recruiting our own doctors)

- advertise for a doctor in national medical journals, admitting the smaller money and emphasising that the lifestyle is worth it. A doctor in Stronsay gets more love and respect than one in London
- lobbying (7)
- the Trust shouldn't be employing a doctor (4)
- advertising for a GP nearing retirement to wind down and spend their next 5-10 years here
- we need a resident doctor, and we must do our utmost to attain this (13)
- keep on seeking new options etc.
- this situation needs to be investigated to find out the actual situation

**Any other thoughts?**

- depends what developments there are in the future
- the ambulance flight helicopter is seeming to be a disaster. We must keep up the pressure for the Islander aircraft in Kirkwall again



**OUR COMMUNITY**

**Youth**

1. What social issues do you feel are facing youths on the island?

- being Christianised, baptised, finding a good job, live happily
- little prospects of getting employment (19)
- none
- lack of places to go and meet (7)
- lack of 'onward' training
- sports facilities – five a side football, tennis (indoor) (4)
- I don't think they have anything to do (8)
- very small peer group, little of interest for that group (9)
- lack of affordable housing (5)
- having to grow up in a fish bowl – every move supervised
- "unsettlement" of going off-island to school for some (2)



- perception of “no future” on island
- experience of life in a larger community and the problems this involves
- a greater social awareness of crime, racism, etc
- raising a family
- integrating “incomer” and “native” youth
- preparing for future most likely away from Stronsay

Are we doing enough as a community to address those issues?

Yes **5**                      No **26**                      No response/don't know **25**

If no, what more could we be doing?

- difficult until we have a list of priorities to address
- island life is ideal up to about age 12/13 and there appears to be little to keep older youth occupied
- good question?
- looking at ways to create jobs and things to do in the evenings
- bring in different bands, films, workshops etc
- involve the youngsters more in decision making – it's their future after all. The school could help here!
- drop-in centre (3)
- structured activities
- create a future for young people
- encourage better use of pool, snooker room (hall) and Fishmart
- letting the island's youth experience, first hand, city life
- keep the clubs which are open in school term open in the holidays so when hostel kids come home they don't feel there is nothing to do on their island
- more organised events with young people from other islands (2)
- more sports facilities (2)
- encouragement of hobbies that don't involve booze and drugs
- provide cheap housing
- provide more jobs
- family is the basis of every nation. Promote family unity
- no choice of school transfer at S1 and S3 i.e. all pupils attend Stronsay JH until 16
- we should be trying harder for indoor facilities due to climate
- probably not a lot you can do (2)
- playground (in process) designed with older children in mind good thing

### **Training and Education**

1. Many of our young folk are leaving the island once their education is finished. Do you see lack of employment opportunities on Stronsay being a major factor in their decision to stay on or leave the island?

Yes **48**                      No **3**                      No response/don't know **5**

2. Do you agree that priority should be given to education/training which would realistically assist them in finding employment on the island, either now or in the future?

Yes **42**                      No **3**                      No response/don't know **11**

If yes, what sort of education/training could be provided which would help them to take advantage of existing opportunities or create new employment on the island?

- evening classes used to be a considerable help to young people on the island (3)
- IT skills (5)
- practical skills
- electrician
- plumbing
- woodwork
- mechanic
- building (2)
- roofing
- catering
- tourism
- would be good to think it would be possible for them to get financial help and training if they wanted to set up their own small business (3)
- engineering (2)
- veterinary
- dry stone walling
- business courses (3)
- how to handle and deal with money
- crafts (2)
- provide ideas/training on employment opportunities that could become available
- assist the youth with ideas they may have to start a project they may have which would generate income
- apprenticeships not funded by the small employer (i.e.) I am a -----, I could teach an apprentice but could not afford to take one on)/apprenticeships in general (5)
- skilled craftsmen are always needed everywhere
- more manual training not just intellectual
- it is no good providing training or education if the employment opportunities aren't here. We need some light industry or some other employment, and then train the youth for the jobs available (3)
- yes, training is important but there is already a huge range of training opportunities available if folk have the drive and initiative to take them up
- agricultural knowledge (3)
- machinery repair

3. Are there other factors which would influence their decision to leave or to remain on Stronsay?

Yes **38**                      No **1**                      No response/don't know **17**

If yes, what are they?

- money. They need to learn that cities are good for money and bad for family life (=bad for happiness)
- a friendly pub!
- employment (4)
- training facilities on the island (2)
- a need to spread their wings, see bright lights etc (14)
- lack of affordable housing (5)
- perception of “no future”
- may have to give up sports/clubs they already take part in in the town as there is a lack of people/interest in certain sports (2)
- ambition
- family ties (2)
- transport to mainland
- note fall in population in Shetland of those aged 15-19 (1621 down to 1391) 20-24 age (1595 down to 1020) for years 1991 to 2004 at a time of very high employment
- young people’s actual reasons need to be surveyed
- attitude of parents to remaining at home
- better marriage prospects
- if a number of children same age decide to transfer to KGS then others who may wish to stay feel pressured into going also
- people from generally happy home backgrounds are more likely to want to stay or return at a later date
- social limitations (14)

### **The Elderly and Dependent**

1. Care of the elderly and dependent members of our community is generally very good but do you feel that there is anything that could enhance this?

Yes **22**

No **17**

No response/don't know **17**

If yes, what more could be done for:

The cared for

- oppose the idea of moving the ferry terminal. It is not worth the trip to the new site when they can walk to the existing one
- I think they are very well looked after
- council care assessment not constricted by lack of finance
- keep a doctor and nurse on the island
- more visits from GP
- stop cutting the hours that they can get home help
- have visits from specialists, hairdresser, physio, speech therapists
- day centre (4)
- respite care (2)
- care home (9)
- how about a hospice?
- more time and money

### The carer

- more arrangements for “time off” for unpaid carers (7)
- more hours to enable them to their work (2)
- carers everywhere are underpaid (3)
- [residential care centre] would also benefit carer as respite care could be provided (2)
- more trained relief carers i.e. Crossroads

### Facilities

There is a variety of facilities within the community (e.g. the Hall, Swimming Pool etc.)

1. Are there any existing facilities that you feel are not being used to their full potential?

Yes **21**                      No **17**                      No response/don't know **18**

If yes, please specify

- the piers
- swimming pool (9)
- all of them
- church hall – often overlooked
- sports field
- hall (6)
- the exposed sandy beaches
- the school facilities – library, hall, computers, playground etc – should be open to the community. It seems a huge waste of amenities to be used for so short a time

How might these be used better?

- [the piers] need to be properly provided with electricity, water taps, good access to boats, a new weather cock
- school evening classes (4)
- if the pool was opened more often it would be used more (8)
- the pool could be advertised as a fitness aid
- more public time and better advertised – vacant time displayed ‘on offer’
- [hall] special rotas for hire
- [hall] live entertainment
- [hall] organised discos every weekend
- church hall is lovely but the community centre is used more often as it's larger
- hall could be smartened up and current usage reviewed for effectiveness
- Fishmart could be open in the evenings, particularly in winter, for extra meeting place
- use the beaches to promote wind surfing
- community centre could be used for youth club and open during weekends and holidays (2)
- how about expanding the [school] library and opening it to the public, also the computers in the evenings

2. If you have any suggestions for new facilities that you would consider to be of community benefit, please specify:
- indoor sports facilities (8)
  - karaoke
  - quiz nights
  - discos
  - amateur dramatics
  - craft lessons (2)
  - fitness centre (3)
  - create a small cinema (2)
  - recycling parts from farm machinery/cars so that they are not just dumped all over the place, one yard for them to go into (2)
  - a furniture 'swap shop' – one man's junk is another's treasure
  - clubs such as archery, karate, tennis, cricket, bowling (green)
  - library/study facilities with IT/internet provision
  - bowling alley
  - golf
  - marina
  - agricultural show
  - squash court
  - computer lab (in the community centre?) with copy/printing capabilities and high speed broadband internet connection

### **Entertainment**

1. In our initial survey, there was a call for a wider range of entertainment on the island.

Are there any previous events that you particularly enjoyed and would like to see again?

Yes **14**                      No **11**                      No response/don't know **31**

If yes, please specify

- dances (2)
- dance classes
- Shogun (3)
- magic show (3)
- singers in the church
- music other than dances
- Stronsay Gala
- Raft Race
- country & western evening at the hall
- concert in hall, seats booked
- school concert/musical

If you have any new suggestions, please specify

- amateur dramatics (3)
- not really under the heading entertainment I suppose, but some years ago a woman did a weekly yoga class. I'd really like to see something like that again
- get athletics clubs and other sports teams out to play, train and compete against
- puppet show
- ice rink
- scarecrow festival
- need to do something new on or in place of Gala Day as I feel it is beginning to die out
- local dance teaching for incomers and children
- more live bands
- talent show
- pantomime (3)
- musical
- I feel that there is a very good choice of entertainment but always room for improvement (2)

2. Are you a member of a community group that could perhaps entertain others?

Yes **3**          No **39**          No response/don't know **14**

If yes, which group?

- Community Association
- Stronsay Singers (2)

3. Do you have a talent of your own that you could share?

Yes **7**          No **31**          No response/don't know **18**

If yes, what is your particular talent?

- some experience of training and development (management)
- corporate entertainment/conferences
- hundreds – unfortunately I'm the only person that recognises them!
- growing plant from seed
- archery (could demonstrate/teach/set up club – subject to funding)
- music – keyboard
- computer programming
- I used to be a fluent Esperanto speaker
- I would join in anything, but have no special talents

**Any other thoughts?**

- a few extra days in the year perhaps as the hall is really well booked with various things – even though I'd like more entertainment it would be difficult to fit it in!



## 4. If more wind turbines were to be erected, ideally where should these be sited?

<b>Where</b>	<b>Reasons</b>
Burgh Hill <b>14</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- not too close to populated places (2)</li> <li>- height</li> <li>- suitability (2)</li> <li>- to supply power for the island</li> </ul>
Rothiesholm Head <b>36</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- keep them together – those who dislike their appearance will then have only one site to complain of instead of several (9)</li> <li>- existing infrastructure (6)</li> <li>- not too close to populated places</li> <li>- by what I've been told, Rothiesholm Head is one of the most effective places to have them situated</li> <li>- seems sensible to keep them all together, although smaller ones at school/community centre/church etc would be acceptable</li> <li>- existing site would become eyesore if more than 6 and unfair on Rothiesholm residents</li> <li>- suitability</li> <li>- to supply power for the island</li> </ul>
School/Community Centre <b>12</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- already near to existing power lines</li> <li>- to provide cheap energy for both sites (3)</li> <li>- could be used as an educational asset</li> </ul>
No response/don't know <b>14</b>	
Other	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• [at Rothiesholm] three is enough (4)</li> <li>• as far away from houses as possible, not that I'm worried!</li> <li>• [wind] preferred, providing it does not destroy landscape</li> <li>• church? Church is a community building along with the school and hall and it benefits everyone</li> <li>• small wind turbines to run essential services only. Large ones are an eyesore</li> <li>• [wind turbines] no more. Cables are too small</li> <li>• we need to be careful about the position with respect to grid connection</li> </ul>



## Recycling

1. What importance do you put on recycling and waste reduction?

High **42**

Medium **10**

Low **0**

No response/don't know **4**

What ideas do you have to improve waste management on the island?

- go for what's profitable, not for political correctness. Obviously we don't want to actually damage the environment, but don't waste effort on changing things for the sake of appearing greenie
- a proper waste collection point
- produce less
- collect it
- recycling boxes, bins for every household to be collected weekly, fortnightly
- recycling plant on island (3)
- promotion of current recycling schemes
- dumping point on island where scrap could be left for transportation to mainland (4)
- we need places where our bags of rubbish can go when full as we don't all have sheds
- more recycling
- have someone collect and sort all material for recycling
- recycle all the black bale wrap that makes the island look such a mess (5)
- get a mobile crusher to come to the island twice a year
- name and shame messy farms in the Limpet
- OIC **not** charging for disposal of larger items (2)
- please move the recycling centre from the pier to? (maybe Jim's yard)
- bins at community centre
- garden waste centre. Compost could be used in market gardening (3)
- more receptacles of more items
- more collections of larger items (inc. cars) would reduce dumping
- a recycling centre where people can leave unwanted household items, clothes, books, etc for others to use (2)
- recycling of more items than is currently available (6)
- we had a brilliant 'scrap store' near us where local industry gave all its offcuts etc. A community run centre – in the Fish Factory? – could benefit everyone, and reduce our waste
- a cardboard shredder. If it was shredded it could be sold as horse bedding
- site paper recycling container near school

### Any other thoughts?

- I have experience in recycling machinery, worked for 14 years on recycling machines. If a recycling plant was set up on Stronsay to deal with the island waste, it would create jobs. I could assist in running such a plant, maintenance, training and acquisition of machinery

- it is no good us looking to renewable energy when the Royal Bank and ferry install lights that are not necessary
- I personally favour re-use over recycling due to the high cost, in time and energy, of many recycling schemes

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## General Comments

There were some comments which did not fit into any of the survey categories. These, with the permission of the writers, follow:

- I believe we could learn much by studying how much of what comes into the island – is there any way some of this could be manufactured or produced locally? Likewise what leaves the island – could it be used in the island? Could more value be added to it before it leaves the island?

I find the centralisation of services very worrying – so much is done by firms from Orkney Mainland that could be done by locals (e.g. work at school – even an electrical socket needing changing involves 2 men and a van for the day!)

We seem to be suffering from a lack of entrepreneurs on Stronsay! I'm sure it must be possible to find people with drive and enthusiasm who would be prepared to move to Stronsay and live, bringing a business with them or starting up a business when they come. I believe having small industrial or business units would be a vital encouragement to any potential development.

- Firstly, I am all for anything that improves or enhances the life that we have on Stronsay, as long as we keep the unique (or nearly) way of life, of community, caring, and friendship that is here. We have to keep the balance right between development and protecting the lifestyle and heritage that is here.

I think that the Trust has to be very careful that any project it undertakes is really what the people of Stronsay want, and that people will then carry on themselves. The directors of the Trust can't and shouldn't do all the work.

For example, I think that the project of a play park for the village is a good example of a project that isn't working as it should. I know that public opinion was asked first of all, but for different reasons people didn't say what they really felt. People in the council houses have some very valid fears and point out that the community of children living there now play very well together and with a few 'extras' from round about have become a sort of extended family. They fear that that balance will be upset if other children are drawn to play in the same area. I don't know if they are right or not.

But my point is that, if the project had really caught the imagination of people [in the village], they would, or should, have taken over the fund raising, the Trust could guide them, but the enthusiasm should come from the people who will benefit and the fact that it is not, shows that something isn't right. Hazel and Julie worked so hard last Christmas but the Trust officers shouldn't be putting all that time and money into projects, the community should.

As an extra, the article in the paper about the play park preventing accidents is nonsense. Surely, if there are more children [in the village], they will wander around, go to the shop, around those nasty corners, and generally 'hang out', they won't all stay within the fence of the play park.

This isn't meant to be negative or discouraging, but a word of warning. I think that it is a great idea, but realise that every project will have its pro's and cons, but mostly, let the community do the work. If they won't, then they don't want it, think again, adapt your plans, but don't burn yourselves out. You are only voluntary workers, not full time staff.