

Fetlar2013

Fetlar Developments Ltd

Fetlar Developments Ltd., a registered charity, was established in 2008 by Fetlar's community in order to counter the depopulation of the island, and address the economic challenges faced by the community.

It is a community owned and managed organisation that aims to:

- Repopulate the island.
- Build a sustainable island community and economy.
- Implement new projects prioritised by the Fetlar Development Plan.
- Work towards becoming a self sustaining organisation.

In 2009, Fetlar Developments drew up the Fetlar Development Plan and secured funding for a full-time Development Worker and part-time Financial Assistant. 2009 also saw the establishment of the Fetlar Working Group.

This group was set up by Shetland Islands Council to support the work of Fetlar Developments. It comprised senior representatives from Shetland Islands Council, Highlands & Islands Enterprise, Fetlar Community Council, Fetlar Developments Ltd. and the RSPB, with other bodies invited to participate as appropriate. Its initial tenure was for 2 years, but was extended.

In 2010, Fetlar Working group was a finalist in the partnership category of the SURF awards. The body was dissolved in December 2012 after the completion of the new pier, but the links developed between the partner groups remain strong.

Projects

Fetlar Developments Ltd. has developed a significant range of projects since its inception including the development of www.fetlar.org, Fetlar's website, and the creation of a free guidebook which has been distributed across Shetland. Latterly, it has secured funding to employ a part time Fetlar Tourism Development Officer.

However, its most significant success so far has been in securing the provision of a new £2.55 million pier and breakwater for the island. Funding for this development came primarily from Shetland Islands Council, with the balance of around £300,000 coming from ERDF. This brought an end to an over 90-year struggle by islanders to secure these facilities.

Fetlar Developments Ltd. has several ongoing projects. These include the provision of an electric minibus and vehicle charge points, which should be

operational by mid-2013. Also in development is a micro wind powered district heating scheme, which would also charge the minibus; a gateway housing scheme; community polytunnels; and a scheme to provide mains water to the whole west side of the island, including the pier and Brough Lodge.

FDL continues to work with partners developing opportunities for the residents of Fetlar by providing opportunities for job creation, and providing support for community development projects.

Contact

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Above: Fetlar's residents pose before the Geira - she can now be berthed overnight at Fetlar.

Left: Josie Simpson unveils the plaque and the pier officially opens.
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