

Item: 4

Community Development Fund Sub-committee: 17 June 2021.

Application Number 0/5/8/57.

Papa Westray Community Council.

Enhancements to Papa Westray Private Water Supply.

Report by Executive Director of Development and Infrastructure.

1. Purpose of Report

To consider an application from Papa Westray Community Council for assistance towards enhancements to the Papa Westray private water supply.

2. Recommendations

The Sub-committee is invited to note:

2.1.

That Papa Westray Community Council has applied for assistance from the Community Development Fund towards enhancements to the Papa Westray private water supply, in order to improve the monitoring system and distribution of the fresh water supply, at a total estimated eligible cost of £19,919.

2.2.

That, in December 2006, Papa Westray Community Council secured grant assistance from the Community Development Fund of up to £31,495.75, amounting to 25% of eligible project costs, towards the upgrading of the Papa Westray private water supply.

2.3.

That Papa Westray Community Council is contributing £9,960 of its own resources towards the project.

2.4.

That messages of support have been received from the undernoted groups and individuals:

- Papay Community Association.
- Papay Community Co-Operative Limited.
- Papay Development Trust.
- Various households in Papa Westray who currently use the private water supply.

It is recommended:

2.5.

That a grant amounting to 50% of total eligible costs, up to a maximum sum of £9,959, to be met from the Community Development Fund, be offered to Papa Westray Community Council towards enhancements to the Papa Westray private water supply.

2.6.

That powers be delegated to the Executive Director of Development and Infrastructure, in consultation with the Solicitor of the Council, to conclude an Agreement, on the Council's standard terms and conditions, with Papa Westray Community Council in respect of the funding detailed at paragraph 2.5 above.

3. Background

3.1.

The Papa Westray water supply was established in 2000 and has served the local community ever since. Prior to its establishment, Scottish Water informed the community that they were not going to establish any linked water system on the island. The water supply was set up to develop a more modern supply mechanism and continues to be maintained by Papa Westray Community Council. The supply is stored in a main water tank with several individual tanks located around the island.

3.2.

Initially, the water supply was only for residential properties on the island. At present, the water supply serves 56 households and 11 public/community facilities, including the community co-op, hostel, kirk and school. The Papa Westray private water supply is inspected by the Council's Environmental Health Officers and water samples analysed to ensure that a drinkable water supply is maintained.

3.3.

The system has operated successfully over a number of years with the income derived from the sale of water. All water is metered and charged at a price competitive with the public supply in other parts of Orkney. This has enabled the Community Council to employ a part-time water attendant, who lives on the island.

3.4.

Papa Westray Community Council has been researching ways in which to ensure the supply of water is provided more efficiently to the various users. This research has involved liaison with various specialist companies and identified a tailored set of enhancements which can be made to the existing system, ensuring that the quality and demand are never compromised.

3.5.

The proposed enhancements have been outlined in the local monthly newsletter, which is sent out electronically to every residential property on Papa Westray, giving households and those responsible for community facilities the option to express their opinion and feedback. The majority of households responded positively to the proposals, demonstrating overall support for the proposed enhancements and now Papa Westray Community Council is keen to move forward with the project.

4. Project Proposal

4.1.

Papa Westray Community Council wishes to carry out enhancements to the Papa Westray Private Water Supply. This predominantly involves the installation of equipment which will reduce the lime content passing through the system, which can be harmful to pipes and appliances that use water. As well as improving the efficiency of the existing system the enhancements will also ensure its ongoing sustainability for the local community. Examples of some of the proposed equipment are shown in Appendix 1 attached to this report.

4.2.

The enhancement works include the following:

- Installation of sensors to monitor temperature and volume of water in the main tanks across the island.
- Installation of pH correction units in the main tanks across the island.
- Installation of scaling inhibitors and filters in the main tanks across the island.
- Integration of pumps and meters into an IT network, with associated programming.

4.3.

The project costs, which have been determined by way of quotations, and proposed funding arrangements, are outlined in the table below (inclusive of VAT as Papa Westray Community Council is not VAT registered):

Project Details.	Cost.
Equipment costs.	£18,229.
Installation of equipment by local water attendant.	£1,690.
Total.	£19,919.
Project Financing.	Amount.
Community Development Fund (50%).	£9,959.
Papa Westray Community Council (50%).	£9,960.
Total.	£19,919.

4.4.

Papa Westray Community Council has agreed to match fund the project at a rate of 50%. Other funding options, including Scottish Water and Scottish Environment Protection Agency were explored, but no suitable funding source was available for a community project such as this.

4.5.

Papa Westray Community Council will continue to maintain the private water supply once the project is complete, through the ongoing employment of the local water attendant. Once the digital installations are complete, it is anticipated the local water attendant will have additional time to focus on monitoring and maintenance around the wells. None of the project works require planning consent.

5. Project Appraisal

5.1.

The proposals put forward in the development plan, which accompanies the application, outlines the intention to carry out a series of enhancements to the Papa Westray Private Water Supply. These enhancements will provide an efficient and sustainable water supply for the community of Papa Westray.

5.2.

Letters of support in relation to this project have been received from the following groups and individuals:

- Papay Community Association.
- Papay Community Co-Operative Limited.
- Papay Development Trust.
- Various households in Papa Westray who currently use the private water supply.

5.3.

In 2006, Papa Westray Community Council received assistance from the Community Development Fund towards upgrading the private water supply. At that time, the water supply provided for 16 houses and Papa Westray Community Council received funding of up to £31,495.75, amounting to 25% of eligible project costs, in order to develop the infrastructure to allow more houses to join.

5.4.

With regard to Papa Westray Community Council's application, the following is an assessment and evaluation against each of the approved assessment and evaluation criteria:

5.4.1. Evidence of need

- The proposed plan to improve the Papa Westray private water supply was outlined in a recent monthly newsletter, outlining the potential benefits. The local feedback received by the Community Council was overwhelmingly positive and as such the proposed plan was moved forward into a project.

5.4.2. Achievability

- Papa Westray Community Council is made up of six elected representatives from the local community. Collectively, they have a considerable amount of knowledge and experience of the Papa Westray private water supply.
- Papa Westray Community Council employs a part-time water attendant. Their collective range of skills and experience should enable Papa Westray Community Council to successfully deliver the project.

5.4.3. Sustainability

- Investing in the proposed enhancements to the Papa Westray private water supply will help extend the lifespan of the existing system through a reduction in lime content passing through the system, as well as prolonging the life of both the copper pipes and the appliances in private houses and community facilities.
- Making the existing private water supply more efficient and sustainable will help to maintain the part-time post of water attendant, ensuring an important job is maintained on the island.

5.4.4. Serving the local public and having lasting benefits

- Ensuring the water supply is always at its best is a big commitment. The Papa Westray private water supply has always been highly appreciated by the islanders not only because of the quality provided but the work that has gone into its establishment back in 2000. By upgrading the system, it will help Papa Westray Community Council maintain the quality and improve the efficiency for the islanders, without passing on any additional costs.
- One of the main aims for Papa Westray is to have more families move to the island, which over time would mean more houses being used or built. By having this technology and filtration systems installed, new residential properties can be linked to the water supply with no disturbances to the current users.

5.4.5. Opportunities provided or upgraded

- The proposed project includes introducing remote modern technology, which will safeguard the water supply for the community. By introducing the sensors to monitor the heat, this will prevent any potential harmful bacteria to be present and could be dealt with as soon as an alert appears. This is currently being monitored manually by the part-time water attendant, who would have more time to focus on other duties if the enhancements were installed.
- Having the sensors linked to multiple devices, should the water attendant be unavailable, other nominated persons on Papa Westray will receive the information. Currently having a private water supply ensures that the costs for the

islanders are affordable. The filters and technology being introduced will potentially safeguard the supply and ownership to the island.

5.4.6. Enriching quality of life

- Water is the most important need and prior to the establishment of the private water supply, Papa Westray was still relying on an old well based system. These enhancements represent the next stage in the evolution of a vital community facility which ensures high quality of water.
- Improving the monitoring and delivery to each household will benefit all participating islanders. Ensuring the ongoing supply is provided in a financial way that reflects the cost of living and the income generated by local households will also be of benefit.

5.4.7. Value for money

- Project costs have been carefully identified by Papa Westray Community Council obtaining competitive quotes for the various equipment required to deliver this project.
- The part-time water attendant will complete the installation. This ensures best value for money by saving on someone having to travel to the island to complete the installation.

5.4.8. Partnership funding

- Papa Westray Community Council has agreed to provide the remaining 50% match funding in order to deliver the project. This demonstrates a strong effort to ensure the project can be delivered for the islanders prior to approaching the Community Development Fund.

6. Links to Council Plan

6.1.

The proposals in this report support and contribute to improved outcomes for communities as outlined in the Council Plan strategic priority themes of Thriving Communities and Quality of Life.

6.2.

The proposals in this report relate directly to:

Priority 3.11 – We will review and develop Empowering Communities Project to create a sustainable model which will enable and empower communities in the delivery of services and projects in their community.

Priority 5.6 – Continue to support Community Associations and Community Schools.

7. Links to Local Outcomes Improvement Plan

The proposals in this report support and contribute to improved outcomes for communities as outlined in the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan priorities of Strong Communities and A Vibrant Economy.

8. Financial Implications

8.1.

In July 2016, a further £1,000,000 was allocated to the Community Development Fund, with £100,000 ring-fenced for Community Councils.

8.2.

At present there is sufficient budget within the 2016 Community Development Fund tranche to consider this project.

9. Legal Aspects

9.1.

There are no legal constraints to the recommendations in this report being implemented and the relevant powers are contained in section 20 of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003.

9.2.

If grant assistance is to be provided by the Council, a legally-binding agreement will require to be entered into between the Council and the recipient setting out the terms on which the funding is being provided.

10. Contact Officers

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11. Appendix

Appendix 1 – Examples of proposed new equipment.

Appendix 1.

Examples of some of the proposed new equipment provided to Papa Westray Community Council.

Water Softener



- Removes scale (hardness)
- Reduce energy costs
- Use less detergents
- Silky soft water
- Low running costs

pH Neutralising Filter



- No more blue stains on baths or sinks
- No more green hair
- No more tooth damage from hot drinks
- No more metallic taste
- Extended hot water cylinder life

Fluid Treatment

Filters, media and complete treatment systems for clean drinking water or for treating waste water.

Clean Water Treatment

A wide range of filters and treatment systems to ensure the water you are drinking is clean, safe and within government guidelines. If you are in any doubt as to what filter or system you need for your potable water supply please do not hesitate to contact us where our friendly and experienced staff will be happy to assist you.

All our products can be found below.

