

North Yell Development Council

Unit 3 and 4 Sellafirth Business Park, Sellafirth, Yell, Shetland ZE2 9DD

Tel. 01957 744215

www.northyell.co.uk

office@northyell.co.uk

Enterprise

Initiative

Self-Help

NYDC Year End Report 2023-24

5 Year Vision from 2022-27 Development Plan

Our vision for North Yell over the next 5 years is...

To remain a thriving community, both socially and economically.

To sustain and grow our population, and support and diversify our economic base.

Through tackling any challenges we might face, and taking full advantage of any opportunities which might arise.

Our vision for NYDC over the next 5 years is...

To support the community of North Yell to remain an amazing place to live, work, visit and invest, through enterprise initiative and self-help

The Main Development Priorities

Improve connectivity

Quality jobs

Warm accommodation

Attracting people to live in North Yell

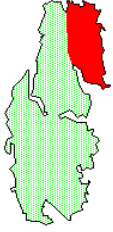
Increased renewable energy

NYDC Directors, membership and staff

NYDC maintained a 12 person board of directors for this year with Mark Lawson remaining as Chairperson, Robbie Coutts as Vice-Chair and Andrew Nisbet as Company Secretary.

NYDC Membership increased from 76 to 103, a 27 member increase. This year also saw the implementation of the NYDC Junior Membership for 12-16 year olds. There are 8 Junior Members enrolled, this represents 73% of eligible people. Over the next year NYDC will hold the first annual Junior Membership Forum Event which will focus on an introduction to community involvement and consultation to find out what NYDC can do to support and empower the youth of North Yell.

Another membership drive will be held in the next year to try to increase NYDC membership further.



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NYDC has 3 full time members of staff. Alice Mathewson remains as Development Manager. Kate Lonsdale's role was enhanced this year from part time to full time incorporating both the Co-ordination officer role for Get North Yell Going Again and other social projects and an Administrative Officer role. Barry Nisbet took over from Reuben Irvine as the Community Development Officer (CDO) for the Carbon Neutral Islands (CNI) Project in October 2023 and left the post in March 2024. Hannah Eynon has been employed for a newly created Environment, Renewables and Sustainable Transport Officer role. This will combine the CNI CDO role with additional duties relating to renewable energy and sustainable transport. It is intended that all three staff members will now work across these projects. Hannah will begin work in April 2024.

NYDC Social Media

This year a new website for NYDC was developed and went live as northyell.co.uk. The website includes details about NYDC, our community and projects/events, provides tourist information and allows booking for the North Yell Marina. There is also a page dedicated to the CNI. The website had a public launch at the community lunches in October.

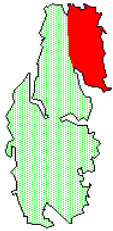
NYDC have also keep a well maintained and updated Facebook presence, which allows us to not only highlight our own projects and events, but also those of other community groups and projects/events of interest to the North Yell community. It also provides an additional opportunity to gather community opinions. The NYDC Facebook has 745 followers.

NYDC Offices/Community Hub

In October 2023 NYDC began renting Units 3 and 4 at the Sellafirth Business Park with the intention of using these for NYDC offices and a community hub.

In order to develop a proposal for community ownership of the units several methods of community consultation were undertaken. Initial consultation was undertaken in September 2023 via Facebook, to gather views in relation to taking the units into community ownership. 67 Likes were received, and 30 comments made, all of which were positive.

More in-depth community consultation was undertaken in early November 2023. This took the form of a Sunday Teas and open afternoon at the business units, followed by the weekly community lunch the next Tuesday. 54 people attended the Sunday event, with an additional 38 participating in the consultation at the weekly community lunch on Tuesday, giving a total participation of 92. Total attendance figures for the community lunch were 63, however a number of these people had already attended on Sunday. Again, all feedback received in relation to bringing the units into community ownership was positive, particularly given that the premises have lain unused for the past 3 years. Based on the community consultation undertaken and the priorities for action within the North Yell Development Plan, a mixed use approach will be adopted for the building, with unit 4 focused on the delivery of business and community services and training, and unit 3 focused on tourism, culture and heritage development, with potential room set aside for business startup.



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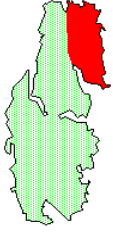
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A floor plan for the building showing envisaged usage is set out below.



Some minor conversion and development within the building will be required. The toilet which has been converted to a shower will be returned to a toilet, and garage doors will be removed from the areas defined above as ICT room and Craft/Art exhibition space and replaced with entry doors.



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These developments ensure a more sustainable working space for NYDC staff and directors, expand the services NYDC offers and allow us to meet a number of the Development Plan priorities.

- Establish an office hub and facilities for use by small local businesses, including support services.
- Provide business advice and information, including business planning, start-up and grants.
- Promote and coordinate training requirements of local businesses and individuals.
- Investigate and support training opportunities for local young people.
- Seek to diversify and broaden the economic base, including increasing remote working.
- Improve digital connectivity including broadband, fibre and 4g access.
- Source and provide advice relating to energy use, potential savings and available support.
- Increase information and encourage small-scale renewable energy projects.
- Support community and business projects with enhanced tourism within the area.
- Foster and support projects which maintain and grow social activities and interaction.
- Recruit and where appropriate secure external funding for further members of staff to support community projects.
- Support and where appropriate secure external funding for further business, community, economic and social development projects.

In the next year NYDC plans to:

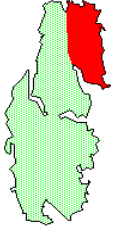
- Fully move NYDC office operations, including CNI and Get North Yell Going Again (GNYGA)
- Develop further community renewable projects
- Establish a wellbeing hub
- Establish a one stop business/advice shop
- Advertise office for business start-up.
- Advertise document storage options to local groups and organisations.
- Establish the craft retail/exhibition area.
- Establish tourist information point.
- Establish training centre and ICT centre.
- Develop a digital culture and heritage project.
- Undertake inspections, renovations and refurbishments.

A £99,000 grant has been secured from the Scottish Land Fund to part fund this project.

Further details can be found in the business plan for community ownership of Sellafirth units 3 & 4.

North Yell Marina

In the first year of operation the North Yell Marina was the centre point for Sail Yell, part of the International Tall Ships race 2023. In addition, the marina housed its 18 permanent berth holders and welcomed 19 visiting yachts over the course of the season.



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The amenity building is now fully operational with 2 accessible showers and toilets as well as laundry facilities. There is also a defibrillator and picnic area.

Over the 3 days of Sail Yell the marina welcomed hundreds of visitors from all over the world as well as 26 Tall Ships. This was a hugely successful event and provided a great opportunity for local businesses to profit from increased visitor numbers.

NYDC supported Sail Yell in a number of ways aside from the venue: by providing grant assistance, through use of NYDC Event Infrastructure such as the marquee and BBQ and staffing (Kate as secretary for the Sail Yell Committee and Alice in grant application assistance).

The Marina has had a very successful first year of operation and in the coming year the following developments and improvements will be made:

- Visitor berth fee will increase from £20 to £25 per night to reflect full amenities now on offer.
- Winter berthing will be offered.
- The slip will be widened and lengthened.
- A cleaner will be employed for the amenity building.

Cullivoe Industrial Estate Phase 2

The Industrial Estate had its official opening on 24th July 2023 aboard the Tall Ship Morgenster. Leases are being negotiated for 8 of the sites. Two potential tenants have withdrawn due to ongoing issues with planning relating to the Cullivoe road. This is also currently preventing development of the NYDC caravan park at the harbour site.

North Yell Community Shop

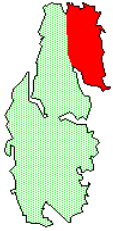
This year a feasibility study and community consultation were conducted to investigate the possibility of taking the Cullivoe Shop into community ownership. A Scottish Land Fund Grant of £11,400 was secured to part fund this feasibility study.

Following on from the feasibility study, it was decided to go ahead with the project. A Scottish Land Fund Grant of £142,600 was awarded to NYDC to part fund the purchase of the building and establishment of the North Yell Community Shop.

This will enable the community of North Yell to retain the shop as a valuable resource as well as provide NYDC with opportunities for further developments in line with the NYDC Development Plan.

Our overall vision for the shop is:

Our community shop will remain the heart of our thriving, self-sufficient community in North Yell.



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We will achieve this by:

- *Ensuring that the Cullivoe Shop remains a well-run local shop at the heart of its community, offering a wide range of food, drink, household essentials and gifts for residents and visitors. Continue vital post office services, and act as a social hub for the community.*
- *Developing the stock and services as needed to ensure that the shop is financially stable.*

The North Yell Community Shop will begin operation in the 24/25 financial year. Full details can be found in the North Yell Community Shop Business Plan.

NYDC Event Infrastructure

A new development this year has been the NYDC Event Infrastructure. The purchase of a new, large marquee, container which doubles up as a bar and large BBQ, not only helped with the running of events this year such as Sail Yell but could also be a source of income for NYDC through rental. The rental opportunities also provide work for local businesses as it requires transportation and assistance putting it up and dismantling it, these costs will be covered by the hirer. Rental options will be included on the NYDC website. A grant of £33,004 was secured from HIE to part fund this project.

Energy Grant Scheme 2023

The spring/summer of 2023 saw the roll out for the NYDC Energy Grant Scheme, offering a £400 grant to every permanent residency in North Yell towards the cost of electricity, heating oil, gas or coal. The scheme was hugely successful with 99% of eligible properties taking up the grant. Responses from residents were very positive, many of whom expressed gratitude to NYDC for the work they do to make North Yell a great place to live. A grant of £22,220 was secured from the National Lottery to part fund this project.

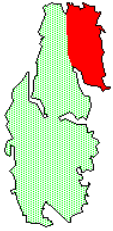
Get North Yell Going Again

Get North Yell Going Again is halfway through the second year of a two-year funding package. The project has proved very successful and NYDC will look at ways to secure alternative funding to continue some aspects of the project after the two years end in September.

GNYGA funding runs from September 2022 - September 2024, and is part funded by a National Lottery Grant of £62,418.

Activities undertaken include:

Community Lunches - the community lunches on Tuesday are funded throughout the school year. As well as funding from GNYGA and NYDC funds, grants have also been secured through the Cullivoe Hall from the SIC Winter Activities Fund and Coastal Communities Fund.



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The lunches are hugely popular and provide NYDC staff with a valuable opportunity to meet with both residents and those visiting the area to undertake consultation and gauge views, opinions and concerns as well as providing a place for the public to meet and socialise.

The lunches provide employment for 1 person and volunteering opportunities for 2 regular volunteers weekly. Over the course of the year 7 volunteers have participated, and this is supplemented by NYDC staff. Community Lunches are averaging 67 attendees weekly this year. It is hoped the lunches will continue after GNYGA ends with funding secured from other sources and NYDC. A recent social value evaluation completed for the community lunches for funders valued the events at £1,078,189.20.

Wicked Wednesday/Youth activities - the Wicked Wednesday youth group and summer activities programme have been really well attended and appreciated by the kids. Wicked Wednesday runs after school on a Wednesday between October and Easter and is supplemented with Summer Activities during the summer break. These included cinema trips, coasteering, Unst Fest trips and pottery painting.

These activities provide a safe, fun space for children as well as access to peer and adult support. They have opportunities to engage in activities for free, relieving the burden on families and providing some childcare support during the summer holidays.

The summer activities in 2024 will fall under GYNGA again funding and we are seeking funding from external sources to continue Wicked Wednesdays in the winter of 2024.

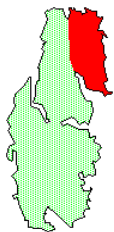
Wicked Wednesday is attended weekly by an average of 13 bairns each week.

Adult Summer Trips - Day trips were held to Whalsay and Unst over the Summer. These were thoroughly enjoyed by those that attended, but numbers engaging were not as high as hoped. Adult trips are being reviewed for this year.

Classes and Workshops - This year GYNGA supported lino cutting and textiles workshops both were fully booked and positively received.

Community Events - Community events were held to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III. GNYGA supported an event at the Cullivoe Primary School, and also held an event at the Cullivoe Hall which was attended by 83 people. Two community brunches and a community carvery were attended by a total of 315 people. In addition, GNYGA both supported and provided funding for Sail Yell which saw over 1,000 attend events at the Cullivoe Harbour/Marina.

Prescription and Shopping Delivery - NYDC began delivering prescriptions to anyone in North Yell and shopping to over 60s in October 2023. Since deliveries began we have delivered over 170 prescriptions to 48 people and 49 shopping orders for 6 people. Deliveries are made weekly on a Friday by Kate and a young volunteer working towards a VAS Saltire Award.



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The number of deliveries is manageable and it is hoped that they will be able to continue after the end of the GNYGA as they provide a valuable service to residents in North Yell as well as a volunteer opportunity. This will also provide a very good connection with the North Yell Community Shop.

In total £52,140 was spent on GNYGA activities during the year, with £32,418 lottery funded.

Carbon Neutral Islands

You can read full details in the Carbon Neutral Islands Project Year End Report.

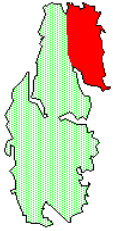
Capital Projects - During the year CNI Yell was awarded £160,000 to spend on capital projects in Yell. Details of how this funding was spent and additional funds secured are set out below.

Projects	CNI Yell	SIC	NYDC	Galley Shed	CLLD	Mens Shed	CCF	SSE	Total
Galley Shed	15,384.83	13,187.00	15,384.83	293.03					44,249.69
Scrap Store	11,943.02				11,942.69	0.30			23,886.01
Resilience Hubs	97,583.60						38,490.54	10,000.00	146,074.14
Polycrubs	35,088.55		56.45						35,145.00
Total	160,000.00	13,187.00	15,441.28	293.03	11,942.69	0.30	38,490.54	10,000.00	249,354.84

The table above shows that £89,354.84 of additional funding was levered in directly to projects funded, giving an overall investment in Yell of just under £250,000. In addition, further funding of £24,000 can now be levered in from Let's Do Net Zero, bring the overall investment total in the island to £273,354.84.

Galley Shed - CNI have provided funding for a to allow the Galley Shed to undertake improvements to the building to allow them to access additional Let's Do Net Zero Funding and become the world's first carbon neutral galley shed.

Scrapstore - CNI have provided funding for a to allow the Mens Shed to develop a scrap store on Yell. This involves on-site storage of materials and equipment, as well as the purchase of equipment for recycling/repurposing of items donated. This will allow the Mens Shed to undertake projects to recycle/repurpose items in order to reduce the carbon footprint of the island. Once operational it is envisaged that the scrapstore will offer items for reuse both through onsite visits and online methods, and that donations will be made either onsite or via pick up. This will fill a gap



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in services for Yell residents, where recycling/repurposing of goods on-island is not currently an option. It is also intended to link the scrapstore with activities at Sellafirth.

Resilience Hubs - The Resilience Hub project was the main capital project undertaken this year by CNI. The project will set up all the Community Halls in Yell, including Cullivoe and Sellafirth, as Resilience Hubs to provide information, resources and services during a variety of emergencies be they climate related or otherwise. The project has purchased a generator for each hall and a variety of resources including power packs, rechargeable lighting, food, blankets, emergency sleeping bags and bedding amongst other things. A Community Resilience Plan has been developed as well as a household resilience plan.

In the next year the hubs will come into operation and each hub will hold a community open day so people are aware of what can be offered. A Facebook group has been set up to provide information about the hubs and the household plan will be printed and distributed to all households in Yell.

Growing Spaces - Planning has been secured for a Community Growing Space in Cullivoe. Seven polycrubs have been purchased for Cullivoe, Sellafirth and Mid Yell. This will increase the amount of homegrown produce and reduce food miles for Yell.

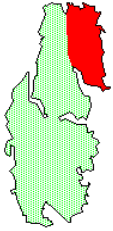
The Cullivoe growing space will have four polycrubs, as well as a storage shed and community gathering area. People will be able to rent space in the crub, similar to an allotment, for their own usage. The Sellafirth growing space will contain two polycrubs, aimed at a mixture of community growing and social/educational space.

These growing areas will provide opportunity to supply community events such as the community lunches and potential for joint working with the North Yell Community Shop. In the next year the Polycrubs will be erected and NYDC will purchase the ground for the Cullivoe space, which we currently rent from the SIC.

Revenue Funding - During the year CNI Yell was awarded £76,061.47 of revenue funding. Details of how this funding was spent set out below.

Staff and Admin Overheads	£50,742.28
Travel and Subsistence	£2,493.52
Direct Costs	£22,825.67
Total	£76,061.47

4 staff members from NYDC worked on the CNI Yell project over the year. Total hours claimed for were 1,858.81 which was just over 1 FTE. However, this does not cover all NYDC staff time spent on the project.



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Travel expenses for the year included attending the All Energy conference, Community Energy Scotland Conference, and CNI CDO meeting in Greater Cambrae, as well as travel for Yell school children to an exhibition of work using recycled materials by the late Dr Mike McDonnell.

Direct costs included revenue expenses relating to the growing areas project; meeting room hire; promotion and marketing of tunnels at both ends of Yell; CDO recruitment expenses; marketing materials; expenditure relating to the provision of skip services on the island; bus hire and transportation costs, and fees relating to recycling/upcycling classes on the island.

Projects financed by CNI revenue funding are detailed below.

Workshops and visits - CNI funded trips for all the primary schools in Yell to attend an exhibition at the Shetland Museum showcasing the work of local artist Mike McDonnell who used recycled items in his work. CNI also funded and facilitated 3 different workshops. The first, in partnership with Transition Turriemfield was about growing under cover, to educate people on how best to use their poly tunnels. The second was a 6 week sewing course held at the Mid Yell School to teach people how to mend clothes and reuse and repurpose old fabric. The third was a 6 week scrap booking workshop held at the Sellafirth Offices to show people how to reuse and recycle papers and a magazines into journals and scrap books. All the workshops were well attended and offered free to participants.

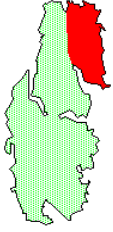
Community Skips - Skip provision came up as a priority in both the NYDC Development Plan and the CNI Action Plan. Initially 3 skip days were planned for this year, providing 2 skips and 2 locations across Yell each time. Due to lack of bookings for the last day only 2 skip days were held with skips placed in Cullivoe and Mid Yell in November and Sellafirth and Burravoe in January. The skips were offered for a small fee of £25 per drop off. Although the skips were filled each time the takings were not sufficient to cover the costs and these were subsidised by CNI.

People who used the skips were grateful for them and would use them again in the future. Some work would need to be done to find a sustainable way to run a community skip scheme.

Tunnel Action Groups – CNI have provided funding to support media services and marketing and promotion for tunnel action groups currently working on securing fixed links at both the north and south ends of Yell.

Blue Carbon - Barry has been working with the fisheries college on a project relating to Blue Carbon and two exhibition and workshop events were held in Yell in March. As a result of this it is hoped that a volunteer group can be set up to monitor the kelp beds in Yell and a PHD student could be taken on to undertake a research project.

Land truthing Peatland Survey - The Shetland Flier undertook a drone survey of the peatland in Yell and has written a report providing very interesting and accurate information about the conditions of the peatland in Yell which will be useful for any further restoration or



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development projects. Although part of the CNI project this work was funded separately through Community Energy Scotland.

Plans for 24/25- Hannah Eynon will take over as the new Environment, Renewables and Sustainable Transport Officer in April 2024, combining the rolls of CNI CDO and the new contracts provided by CES and i-CAN projects. She will be assisted in all these projects by both other NYDC employees. This will enable us to set up the NYDC offices in Sellafirth as a centre for excellence in renewable home energy and transport solutions. The aspiration for the next year, subject to funding, is that the offices can become a demonstration hub and a source of information for individuals and businesses looking at options for either retrofit or new homes/buildings. It has been suggested that other islands in the CNI network might also wish to set up their own centres of excellence in different specialities to foster a collaborative network of information sharing.

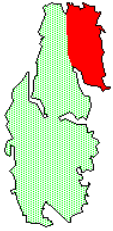
The possibility of using Yell and the North Isles as a pilot study for the installation and monitoring of air-to-air heat pumps has been suggested. If funding can be found, this project could lead to the hiring of an additional development worker to survey the properties in Yell and the North Isles and create a database showing the condition of the insulation in the housing stock of the islands. This would help identify properties that could have an air-to-air system installed and their energy uses monitored for a year.

Housing/Population Retention/Increase

NYDC put out a call to landowners at the end of 2023 looking for suitable ground to site community housing. Following the Cullivoe School being threatened with mothballing in early 2024, this became of heightened priority. NYDC therefore assisted a family to relocate to the area and are currently looking at both helping with refurbishment of a property and potentially buying another property to make available for rental within the area. In addition, a stage 1 application has been submitted to SLF to secure funding to undertake a housing need analysis for North Yell as well as a business plan, valuation, condition report, and conceptual drawings for housing development at Midfield, Cullivoe.

In the 23/24 school year we have had 3 new families moving into North Yell with a total of 13 new residents. There have been 4 new enrolments in the Cullivoe School, the school roll is now at 20%, a significant increase from the 9% predicted for the 23/24 school year. The school roll is set to rise for the 24/25 school year with another new family moving to the area with a young family starting the school.

NYDC will continue to monitor population levels and the school roll, assisting in the growth of both where possible.



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NYDC Grant Schemes

A new addition to NYDC services this year has been the setting up of formal grant schemes, for a variety of community and personal development projects. Grants this year were paid for education and training, events, and small, medium and large community projects. Summary details of grants awarded this year are set out below.

		Community			
Training & Education	Entertainment	Small	Medium	Large	Total
9,500.00	3,700.00	1,909.00	13,928.75	74,390.41	103,428.16

In total NYDC have awarded/donated £103,428.16 this year. Descriptions of some of these donations/awards are set out below.

Education and Training Grants NYDC supported 4 individuals to cover the cost of driving lessons, theory and practical tests. 14 school pupils were supported to go on school trips. 1 application was supported to assist with travel to sports training.

Entertainment Grant NYDC supported 5 local groups to host entertainment events this year. This connects with the Development Plan goal of ‘supporting socialising’ as well as relieving the cost of living burden on residents by allowing certain events to be free or to charge less to participants.

Small Scale Community Grant (under £750) NYDC supported the provision of milk and healthy snacks at Cullivoe School, and trip to the pantomime in Lerwick. Sponsorship of a trade stall at the Lerwick Tall Ships in the summer supported 2 local businesses and allowed them access to an international market. NYDC has also supported an application for the Breckon Beach to apply for a beach award.

Medium Scale Community Grant (£751 to £5,000) NYDC supported transport for the Yell youth café; an information board for Breckon Beach; Keep Yell Warm lunch club at the Cullivoe Hall; Shetland Netball Development Officer; emergency heating; North Isles football team transport; Sail Training trainee for the Tall Ships.

Large Scale Community Grant (Over £5,000) NYDC supported vital equipment to for care at home and end of life care in Yell; Cullivoe Galley Shed to achieve net zero and Tunnel Action Groups to undertake geotechnical, socio-economic and environmental work relating to tunnels between Unst and Yell and Yell and the Mainland.