

SHETLAND COMMUNITY FACILITIES NETWORK NOTES OF MEETING

Thursday 29th June 2023 (Online – Zoom), 6pm

Present:

Caroline Breyley	Burravoe Hall
Robbie Coutts	
Rosie Doull	Sullom and Gunnister Public Hall
Dawna Phillips	Dunrossness Central Public Hall
Sharon Deyell	Skeld Hall
Joanne Fraser	SIC Community Involvement & Development, Skeld Hall
Alan Hamilton	Sandveien Neighbourhood Centre
Wendy Hand	VAS
Shona Horn	Scottish and South Electricity Networks
Ayesha Huda	VAS
Reuben Irvine	North Yell Development Co
Laura Whittall	Bigton Community Hall, Bigton Shop, Bigton Collective
Alistair Williamson	Hillswick Public Hall SCIO

Apologies:

Frances Browne, SIC Community Involvement & Development, Baltasound Hall

Helena Johnson, Voe Hall

Billy Mycock, St Magnus Church Hall

Fiona Sterling, Highlands & Islands Enterprise, Mid Yell Hall

Rosalyn Fraser, SIC Community Involvement & Development

1. WELCOME

Ayesha welcomed attendees to the meeting.

2. PRESENTATION:

SHONA HORN, SCOTTISH AND SOUTH ELECTRICITY NETWORKS, RESILIENT COMMUNITIES FUND (NORTH OF SCOTLAND).

Please see the attached PDF for full details.

You can watch the presentation at this link: <https://youtu.be/OG5-Jx60Ojc>

The [SSEN Resilient Communities Fund 2023](#) is now open for applications, with a total of £157,000 available to eligible community groups, community councils and charities in the north of Scotland SSEN network area. Grants will range from £1,000 to £10,000 for single area projects, although exceptional multi-community applications may be considered up to a maximum of £40,000.

SSEN's Resilient Communities Fund is now in its ninth year, and in that time has seen a wide variety of applications that have all sought to boost communities through improving resilience and responding to the needs of their residents in adverse and difficult circumstances.

The deadline for applications is **5pm on Monday 31 July 2023**, and applicants are asked to consider the following criteria for funding, which seeks to support projects falling under these two categories:

- **Resilience for emergency events** - To enhance community facilities, services and communication specifically to support the local response in the event of a significant emergency such as extended power loss.
- **Vulnerability** - To protect the welfare of vulnerable community members particularly during significant emergency events such as extended power loss, through enhancing their resilience and improving community participation and effectiveness.

The SSEN Resilient Communities Fund Panel, will review applications and determine which projects should receive funding, with the successful applications announced in the autumn.

Following the conclusion of this final year of the Resilient Communities Fund, SSEN Distribution will be developing and launching a new fund in the later autumn of 2023. While continuing to support community resilience, this new fund will seek to include environmental resilience and the adoption of low carbon technologies. Full details and timescales will be announced later this year.

Key Documents

Shona also shared a number of documents related to promoting personal and community resilience. She is keen for organisations to actively promote Personal Resilience and the SSEN Priority Service for vulnerable customers in their local communities and noted this would be looked on favourably in any funding applications.

Personal Resilience

- Home Emergency Plan (please contact Shona if you would like printed copies).
- Priority Service Register Details [Priority Services Registration Form - SSEN](#). (This service is for people who may need extra help in the case of an emergency. For example – lives with under 5's or has a disability)
- Shona emergency grab box list (an example of items we should all keep to hand in case of an emergency).

Community Resilience

- Use of Batteries for Emergency Use:
ECO Flow – Link for the ECO FLOW Battery is <https://uk.ecoflow.com/>
SSEN are trialling the [Eco Flow Delta Max](#) battery.
- Community Emergency Plan Template and an example of Community Emergency Plans

- Generator Specification Request Form

SSEN Resilient Communities Fund 2023

- Application form
- Guidelines

Shona Horn - contact details

email: shona.horn@sse.com

Tel: M: 07500 912566

3. MARTYNS LAW (WENDY HAND)

Wendy informed the network about new UK legislation that will place additional risk assessment requirements on community facilities which have a capacity of 100 + people.

Martyn's Law' will place a requirement on those responsible for certain venues to consider the threat from terrorism and implement appropriate and proportionate mitigation measures.

The legislation is part of the government's response to the [Manchester Arena Inquiry Volume 1](#) which recommended the introduction of legislation to improve the safety and security of public venues. The legislation aims to ensure that people are prepared, ready to respond and know what to do in the event of an attack. Better protection will be delivered through enhanced security systems, staff training, and clearer processes.

Under the legislation, sites (those with a maximum capacity of 100 to 799) will need to complete an **evaluation template** to make sure they are better prepared to respond quickly to terrorist attacks and save lives.

Wendy noted that VAS will provide more information and relevant training before the law is implemented.

4. DEPOSIT RETURN SCHEME

The launch date for the Scheme has now been postponed to October 2025. We are still waiting for full guidance to establish what community organisations will be required to do. If any groups have concerns about the proposed scheme they can contact Beatrice Wishart, MSP (email: Beatrice.Wishart.MSP@Parliament.scot). Alternatively you can send comments to Ayesha.huda@shetland.org and she will forward them on.

5. GOVERNANCE UPDATE

Charities (Regulation and Administration) Bill

The Scottish Parliament has passed the Charities (Regulation and Administration)

Bill. The Bill will improve the accountability and transparency of charities and increase the powers of the independent Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR).

Provisions in [The Charities \(Regulation and Administration\) \(Scotland\) Bill](#) include:

- updating the criteria for the automatic disqualification of charity trustees and extending them to individuals with specific senior management positions in charities
- removal from the Scottish Charity Register of unresponsive charities that fail to submit statements of account
- a requirement for all charities in the Scottish Charity Register to have and retain a connection to Scotland
- a requirement on OSCR to publish the statements of account for all charities in the Scottish Charity Register
- requirements on OSCR to include charity trustee names in the Scottish Charity Register, to keep an internal schedule of charity trustees' details and to create a publicly searchable record of charity trustees removed by the courts

OSCR - New Annual Reporting Requirements

As of November 2023 there will be a new annual return form for charities. The form is focussed on ensuring better governance of smaller charities and will include a number of questions relating to governance. For example: When is the last time you reviewed your governing document?

Wendy noted that charities who have their accounts independently examined by VAS will have undergone several checks relating to governance as part of their examination.

Ayesha noted VAS offer training on the Roles and Responsibilities of a Trustee and suggested groups attend this training which can be offered to the whole committee.

6. FUNDING UPDATE

Stay up to date with funding news

VAS produces a regular funding newsletter (subscribe to the newsletter by emailing Ayesha.huda@shetland.org) and Michael Duncan at the SIC (Michael.Duncan@shetland.gov.uk) also maintains a fundraising news mailing list.

You can also visit SIC's free Funding search engine which local groups and organisations can sign up for: [Funding Shetland – Shetland Islands Council](#) or use SCVO's free online search engine – [Funding Scotland](#).

National Lottery Community Fund (NLCF)

NLCF have announced a [new strategy](#). The initial changes include an increase to the maximum grant for the "Awards for All" programme from £10,000 to £20,000

7. TRAINING UPDATE

Ayesha noted that VAS provides the following training which will be delivered at Market House during September – November:

- Risk Assessment
- Treasurer Training
- Financial Management for Committees
- Roles and Responsibilities of Committees/Trustees

In addition we are able to deliver training on-site to committees. If you have any specific requests please contact Ayesha and VAS may be able to provide the training or signpost to additional sources.

8. AOCB

No issues raised

3. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Save the date: **Wednesday 13 September 2023, 6pm – 8pm (Eventbrite link for registration to follow).**