Point and Sandwick Trust

Community Development Plan

2020-2025

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1. Introduction

This community development plan is the second to have been created by Point and Sandwick Development Trust (PST) and builds on the work and achievements since the last plan was written in 2013. While the document itself may have the Point and Sandwick Development Trust logo and name on it, its contents reflect what has been – and still is – a collaborative community journey.

The funding priorities set out in the 2013 plan were as a direct result of the community consultation which had been carried out earlier and this provided us with both evidence and a mandate that the plan matched the aspirations, needs and priorities of local people.

Underpinning all investments was the need to match PST's own charitable purposes. PST is governed by one founding principle; to promote the social, educational, cultural and environmental well-being of the people of the Western Isles with a focus on the communities of Point and Sandwick.

This is delivered through seven identified means to promote community well-being:

- Promoting community development, including rural regeneration, following principles of sustainable development.
- Providing assistance to people who are disadvantaged by reason of age, ill-health, disability, financial or other disadvantage
- Promoting education, including all forms of training for work and life skills
- Advancing the arts, culture and heritage, including support for the Gaelic arts and the protection of buildings and sites of architectural or historic importance
- Providing and supporting recreational activities for the community, especially for disadvantaged or vulnerable groups, such as young people or the disabled
- Protecting and enhancing the natural heritage and environment
- Through the relief of poverty in such ways as may be thought fit.

Two further important aspects were key planks in the 2013 plan. These were that the investments we made would create employment, and lever in additional income.

The lifespan of the previous plan was five years. Anticipating that the plan would need to be both reviewed and assessed, we commissioned Impact Hub Inverness to carry out a social impact review. This assessed the grant making activity of the previous 5 years and provided evidence of the difference our funding had made to the groups receiving grants and the communities of the PST and wider area. The Social Impact Review confirmed that all of the funding priorities had been met, whether these be those identified through community consultation, those stated in the PST governing documents, or the two key principles of job creation and leverage.

The results of the social impact report (set out in a separate document) and the findings from wide ranging interviews with grant recipients, stakeholders and our Board, have helped shape and distil what the investment priorities for the Trust should be for the next 5 years. These are now set out in this new community development plan.

In addition, this plan highlights where the Trust's own aims match some of the values and aspirations set out in Scotland's National Outcomes, as well as those identified as local priorities by Comhairle nan Eilean Siar.

2. PST Investment in Context

This section looks at our history and achievements to date and the current operating environment, and also gives a socio-demographic profile of the local area.

2.1 PST's achievements and history – the story so far

PST is an award-winning community-owned wind farm that exists solely as an asset to generate significant revenue for community projects over the 25-year life span of the turbines.

The £14 million project is the UK's biggest community-owned wind farm and has provided £2,389,000 investment in the local community since 2015 (through grant schemes, the Joint Project Fund, and wages, etc.). Some of this investment has been direct into local charities and community groups, to help them deliver their aims, and some of it has been indirect investment which has benefitted the community. The investment has also created or sustained 32 full time posts and 25 part time posts in the local area. Full details of the investment and its impact can be found in a separate Social Impact Report.

PST was formed in 2009 and is the UK's largest community-owned windfarm. In the 11 years since it was set up, we have achieved some important milestones, as detailed below:

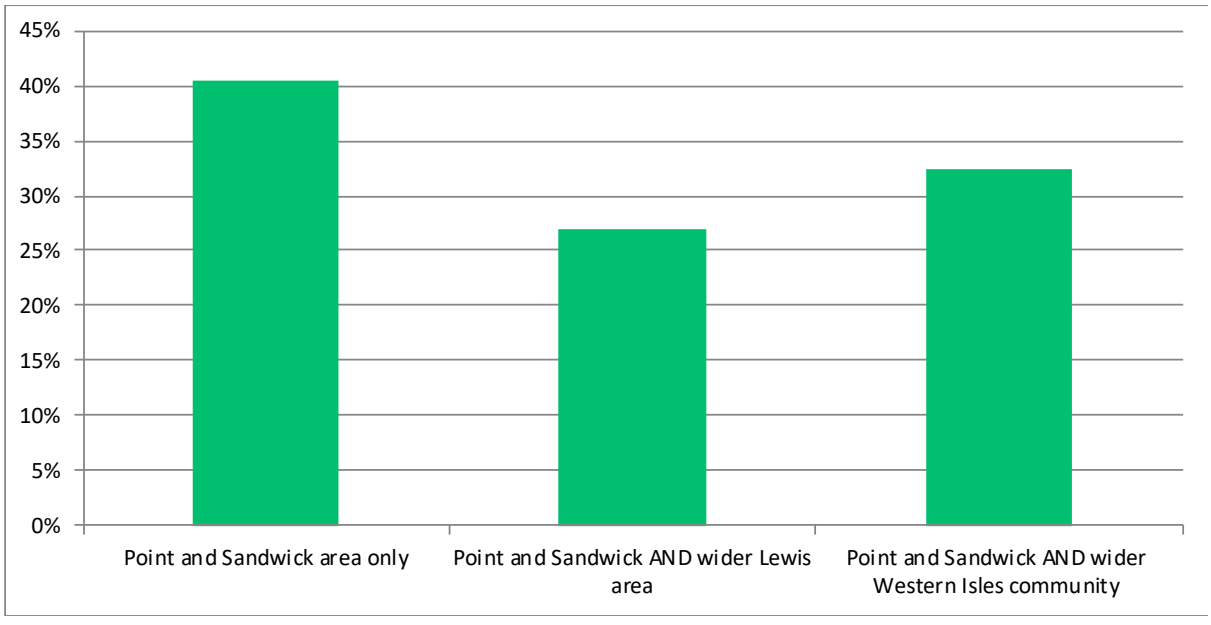
- The three turbines at Beinn Ghrideag in the Sandwick North common grazings become fully operational in 2016
- Launch of community grants programme the same year
- Since 2016, PST's six core funded organisations - Bethesda Hospice, An Lanntair, Hebridean Alpha, Western Isle Foyer, Woodland Crofts Scheme run by the Woodland

Trust, and a LED Community Project run by Tighean Innse Gall – have received funding totalling £639,299

- A further 61 organisations have received funding totalling £756,722
- Since the funding scheme was launched, PST has provided a total of £1,396,021 of funding directly to projects in and around the local area
- With investments made directly into community groups above, and also other indirect investments into the community, the total invested over the five years is £2,389,000.
- Built up a membership of around 400 people. This is slightly less than the target we originally set which was to increase membership to at least 25% (745) of the total of 2,890 eligible electors in Point and Sandwick by the end of the first five years.
- Created 4 FTEs directly within PST, and created or sustained a further 28 full time posts and 25 part time posts in the local area
- Anchor tenant in The Old School contributing significantly to the running costs of this important community facility which encompasses a shop, café, and community meeting place
- Named the 'Environmental Champion' in the NatWest SE100 Social Business Awards 2020
- Recognised by HIE as an 'Anchor Community Organisation' for the purposes of the Supporting Communities Fund during the 2020 C19 pandemic, providing food and essential items were delivered to households in the Point and Sandwick area, as well as other related community support services.

PST funds community groups and organisations in both the Point and Sandwick area and across the Western Isles. Responses from a survey of grant recipients, carried out to help inform this plan, shows the geographical breakdown of PST's funding to date, as shown in the table below.

Table 1: Location of groups receiving funding from PST, 2016-2020



2.2 The current operating environment

The normal operations of Point and Sandwick Trust were suspended temporarily in March 2020 to redirect all uncommitted income towards the Pandemic Community Support Fund. Investment support covered a number of areas including:

- A £40,000 grant award, the biggest one-off donation in PST's history, to NHS Western Isles.
- £5,000 to each of Point, Sandwick and Stornoway Community Councils to be used as 'hardship funds'.
- The distribution of face visor-PPE to each hospital and care home in the Western Isles.

The effects of Covid-19 on community-based groups are likely to be ongoing with many organisations looking at how services could or should be adapted. For some, re-opening in any form may prove hugely challenging.

For PST this means there is likely to be continued demand for funding, from groups providing support to disadvantaged groups in the community, which in turn places a responsibility on the board to be clear on what its funding priorities are moving forward. And while the impacts of lockdown are easing, any resurgence of the virus is viewed by the board as a potential factor in how its funds might be utilised in the short to medium term.

The other significant factor which will impact on our investments over the next 5 years is the ongoing turmoil in the energy market, due partly to the impact of covid but also to other changes such as the collapse in the oil prices and the massive growth of offshore wind energy which are expected to have longer-term effects on our operating environment.

Wind farm income is always variable because of the variability of the wind resource from month to month and from year to year, but combined with the current volatility in the energy market it means that it is almost impossible to predict what our income over the coming 5 years is likely to be.

This plan, therefore, does not assume a certain level of income will be available to PST to support its investments in the future. It does, however, set out the framework for how decisions will be made regarding how the resources that are available will be used.

2.3 The local context

The original development plan set out the context for the Western Isles at the time, on the basis that the future welfare of our community in Point and Sandwick was inextricably linked to the welfare of the wider community in Lewis and Harris and, indeed, in the whole Western Isles. Consequently, the analysis of the social, economic and cultural context we faced was described at a pan-Western Isles level, and as many of the issues and challenges

that were presented in the initial development plan are the same, the situation today is presented in summary.

The Western Isles is sparsely populated and located at a considerable distance from large markets, both of which have an impact on the local economy. There are well documented disadvantages inherent in rural areas. A report by Scottish Government, which summarises the evidence on deprivation in rural Scotland[1], details the different aspects of deprivation that rural areas are likely to experience, and lists these as:

- Higher consumption of fuel for heating and transport
- Higher cost of living
- Challenging transport to work and study
- Less accessible key services including healthcare, childcare and broadband
- Difficulties around housing affordability, quality and access
- Limited opportunities to earn adequate income compared to urban areas.

The report also found that while many rural areas have an increasing population, there is also ageing of the population and out-migration of young people, as they move to urban centres. Because of the more dispersed pattern of people living in poverty in rural areas, it is harder to detect poverty in rural Scotland, as the report acknowledges. The SIMD (Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation) is the main tool used by policy makers to understand which areas experience various forms of disadvantage, but Scottish Government recognises the limits of the SIMD for rural areas. This has led some researchers to conclude that there is hidden poverty in rural Scotland[2]. Area-based measures such as SIMD are less sensitive to areas such as the Outer Hebrides which are sparsely populated and socially heterogeneous. This can lead to a situation where households in places such as the Outer Hebrides are omitted from policy and targeting by national interventions designed to address poverty and inequalities. The last report on the SIMD that gives meaningful detail on the experience of rural deprivation is based on the 2009 SIMD, as referenced in the initial community development plan for PST. This report stated that the Western Isles was one of the most deprived rural areas in Scotland[3] (see map below).

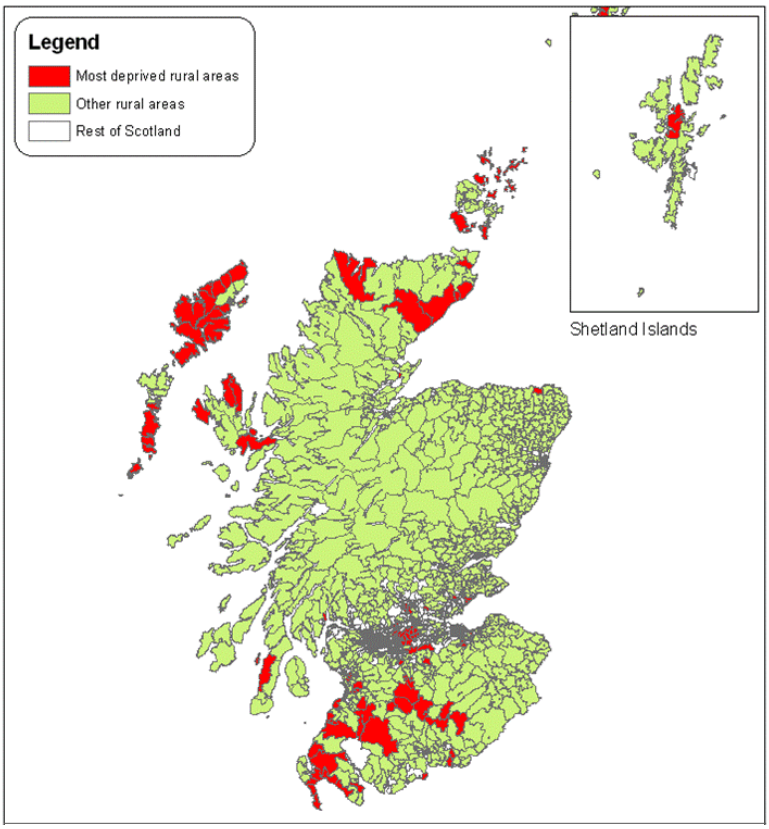
The Outer Hebrides has the lowest population density (9 people per kilometre square) of all the local authorities in Scotland, which makes the delivery of, and access to services more challenging. This challenge falls most heavily on those that are most vulnerable.

[1] SIMD Rural Deprivation Evidence Summary, Jennifer Thomson, Scottish Government, November 2016 https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/research-and-analysis/2017/02/scottish-index-of-multiple-deprivation-rural-deprivation-evidence-and-case-studies/documents/rural-deprivation-an-evidence-review/rural-deprivation-an-evidence-review/govscot%3Adocument/rural%2Bdeprivation%2Bevidence%2Breview.pdf

[2] Rural Poverty: Under the radar? Jane Atterton, Rural Policy Centre, SRUC, October 2019 https://policyscotland.gla.ac.uk/rural-poverty-under-the-radar/

[3] Income, Employment and Access in deprived rural areas using SIMD 2009, Office of the Chief Statistician.

Most deprived rural areas according to SIMD 2009



According to the anti-poverty strategy produced by CnES in 2019[4], the employment rate is higher in the Outer Hebrides than in Scotland as a whole, but earnings are lower, and GVA per head is significantly lower. The incidences of fuel poverty and dwellings that are not energy efficient are significantly higher. The data also shows that housing costs as a proportion of income are also higher, with a slightly higher incidence of children in families with limited resources after housing costs. See the table overleaf.

[4] Outer Hebrides Anti-Poverty Strategy 2019-2024, incorporating the Local Child Poverty Action Report.

Table 2: Key indicators for the Outer Hebrides and Scotland

Indicator	Scotland	Outer Hebrides
GVA per head, 2016 (£)	£24,876	£17,276
Employment rate (%)	73.9	80.5
% of 16-64 year olds with SCQF 7-12	42.5	42.0
All Healthy Life Expectancy at birth (ALL)	64.2	65.5
Median weekly Earnings - full-time employees (£) - 2016 (resident analysis)	£547.70	£479.80
Households in Fuel poverty 2014-2016 (% of households)	31	55.6
Children in Families with Limited Resources After Housing Costs (%)	20.4	23.2
% of LA datazones within Scotland's 15% most deprived (SIMD)	15.0	0.0
% of dwellings not “energy efficient” 2014-2016	34.0	57.9

Recent research quoted in the anti-poverty strategy found that in order for a household to meet a minimum acceptable standard of living, the budget required was between a tenth and a third more in rural Scotland compared to urban parts of the UK. Indeed, the cost of living on the Scottish islands was found to be higher than any other remote rural areas in either Scotland or the wider UK. Increased costs of living for island households resulted from:

- considerably higher household fuel bills, influenced by climate, fuel sources and systems
- higher prices for food, clothes and household goods
- longer distances that people have to routinely travel, particularly to work.

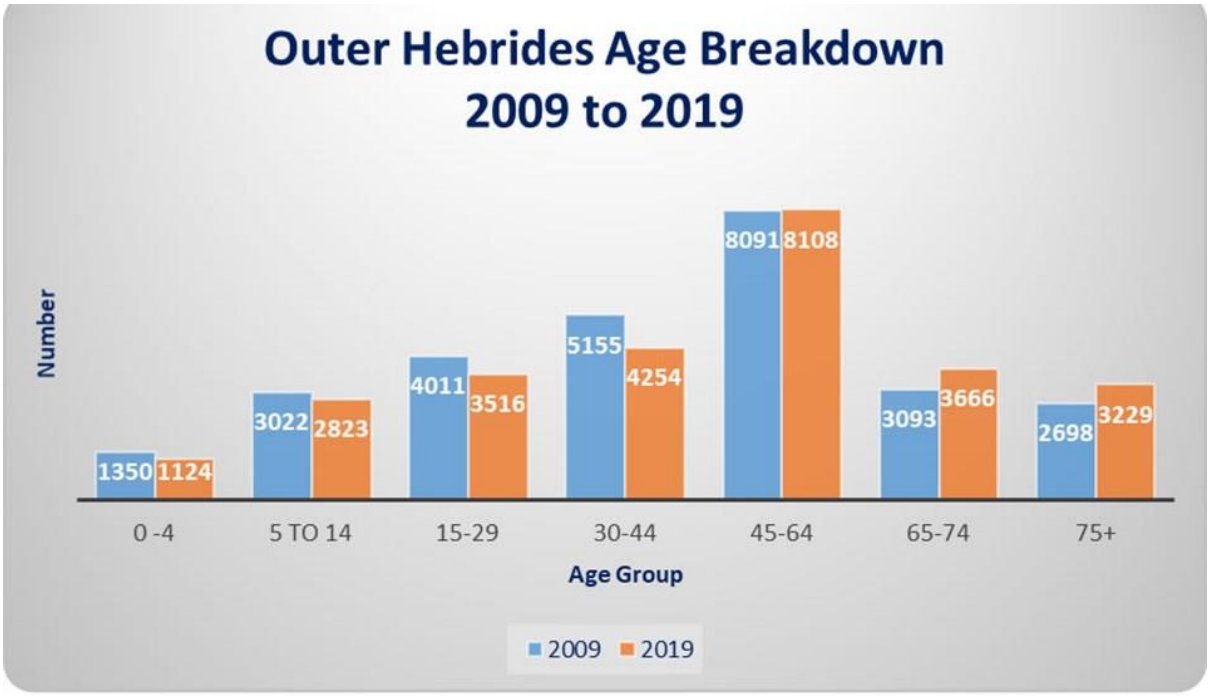
The public sector employment rate was 38.6% of all employment in 2015, much higher than in Scotland (24.7%) and Great Britain (18.4%). While this was an improved situation compared to the original development plan, when public sector employment accounted for 43% of island jobs compared to a Scottish average of 30%, the islands are still more vulnerable to reductions in public expenditure. The potential austerity measures that will need to be put in place post-Covid 19 may therefore have a disproportionate impact on the islands. This would be on top of a vast reduction in income to the islands as a result of a lost tourist season in 2020.

One of the biggest challenges faced by the Outer Hebrides, however, is depopulation, and particularly that population decline which results from the out-migration of young people who are not replaced by incoming young people to the same extent. The most recent information on population from CnES[5] shows that there was an estimated slight further decline in population between 2018 and 2019, of 0.4%, for the Outer Hebrides as a whole. The decrease between 2009 and 2019 is estimated at 2.6%, whilst Scotland as a whole had an increase of 4.4%, and the other island groups of Orkney and Shetland also had increases

[5] https://www.cne-siar.gov.uk/strategy-performance-and-research/outer-hebrides-factfile/population/overview/

of 6.4% and 0.5% respectively. In 2019, the median age of residents in the Western Isles was estimated to be 49.5 years, compared to the Scottish average of 42 years. The age profile of the islands is shown in the table below. The report notes that net out-migration of young people continues to be a trend for all Scottish islands, but the trend is more marked in the Western Isles than in other island groups.

Table 3: Change in Age Profile of Outer Hebrides, 2009-2019



3. Consultation Feedback on Community Needs and Priorities over the Next 5 Years

In order to develop the investment priorities for the next 5 years, extensive consultation was carried out with the community, PST grant recipients, stakeholders, and the board of PST. The consultation was a mix of surveys and 1-2-1 interviews. Key aims of the consultation were to find out: what people believed the needs of the community over the next five years would be; what the funding priorities of PST should be over the next five years, based specifically on PST's 7 main charitable purposes; and to determine if there were any specific projects or initiatives that people felt PST should consider funding. The needs and priorities are set out below.

3.1 Community Needs

All survey and interview respondents were asked which of the PST objectives was important moving forward – while there was some difference in the reported levels of importance, all seven of the objectives were seen as still being relevant for the future.

Respondents were also asked what they thought the *needs* of the community would be in the next five years. The range of themes that were identified are shown below, and these range from broad issues that the area is expected to face, to very specific ideas about projects that should be delivered.

The top five areas of need identified were trying to retain/attract young people, job creation and support for business development, meeting the needs of an ageing population, the need for a community facility, and tackling social isolation. A number of other key themes also emerged, as shown below. There are links between themes, however, with some of those of less priority having an influence on the main areas of need. There was no suggestion that PST would or should have a role in meeting all (or indeed any) of these needs. The things that were identified as community needs do correspond well to the seven charitable objects of PST, demonstrating that these are still relevant for the future. Table 4 overleaf maps the needs identified to the existing seven PST priorities. This shows how the seven objectives are still relevant today and for the future.

Main needs identified for the future:

- youth provision and retention
- unemployment/job creation/business development
- ageing population (and fuel poverty in particular)
- social isolation
- community hub facility

Additional needs identified (in no particular order):

- climate change & environment
- infrastructure
- Gaelic speakers decline
- local walking routes
- tourism developments
- affordable housing
- play parks
- social isolation
- Braighe closure
- impact of Brexit, and reduction in investment by CnES
- sport facility provision – all weather football pitch etc.

3.2 Consultation Findings on Future Investment Priorities

Although the list above represents the identified needs of the community, it doesn't necessarily follow through that there is a view that PST should be addressing these needs. And indeed, this was the case. So, when asked what the focus of PST investment for the next 5 years should be, the responses do not directly correspond to the needs identified.

Other bodies, local and central government, and other stakeholders were also seen as key players in addressing some of the local needs that were identified.

Consultees were therefore also asked about specific projects which should be investment priorities for PST in the next 5 years. There was broad consistency between the members of the board, stakeholders and the wider community as to what these investment priorities should be. The full detail of survey responses can be found in the appendix, but the main projects raised by respondents are listed below, in alphabetical order.

- An innovation centre at the college
- Bethesda Hospice
- Coastal path
- Community development worker – to instigate community events, community support, intergenerational activities, etc
- Continued support for LED project
- Electric car charging point
- Environmental protection and enhancement – specifically woodlands project
- Events e.g. fireworks etc which support community cohesion
- Financial support to elderly towards heating
- Garrabost Mill development
- Growing projects, local food produce market, vertical farming scheme exploration/investigation
- Helping individual communities to become more self-sustainable energy-wise
- Investment in light industries and electronics
- Old Knock School Community Hub development
- Ongoing support for local sports and other clubs, youth clubs and school trips
- Path networks and cycle paths around Point and Sandwick for safer walking/cycling
- Possible support for a local business development consultant role to provide business support to business/social enterprise start-ups and for growth
- Suppling white goods via bulk purchase
- Support for local arts and heritage
- Support for sporting facilities: Fitness and health and wellbeing measures, including play parks, and support for existing activities
- Visitor centre focusing on Hebridean art that brings together exhibitions, local artists and digital access

Table 4 below shows these priority projects for investment by PST, and then maps them against the seven objectives of the Trust, as well as the community needs already identified above in section 3.1. This table clearly shows how the impact of any investment is not limited to addressing any one particular need, or one of PST's seven objectives; an investment will actually have a much wider impact than this, and will make a difference to many aspects within in a local community.

Table 4: PST Objectives, Community Needs, and Investment Priorities

PST Objectives to promote community wellbeing	Related community need/priority identified (main priorities in **bold**, others in *italics*)	Specific Investment Projects for PST
Promoting community development, including rural regeneration, following principles of sustainable development	**retention of young people and provision of appropriate facilities/activities** **unemployment/job creation/business development** **an ageing population (including fuel poverty in particular)** **social isolation** **a community hub facility** • *climate change, environment & energy efficiency measures* • *infrastructure* • *Gaelic language decline* • *local walking routes* • *tourism developments* • *sport facility provision, all weather football pitch etc.* • *Braighe closure* • *impact of Brexit &reduction in investment by CnES* • *affordable housing*	Old Knock School Community Hub development Events e.g. fireworks etc which support community cohesion Continued support for LED project Helping individual communities to become more self-sustainable energy-wise Ongoing support for local sports and other clubs, youth clubs and school trips Garrabost Mill development Coastal path Growing projects, local food produce market, vertical farming scheme exploration/investigation An innovation centre at the college Possible support for a local business development consultant role to provide business support to business/social enterprise start-ups and for growth

		Investment in light industries and electronics Environmental protection and enhancement – specifically woodlands project Electric car charging point Support for sporting facilities: Fitness and health and wellbeing measures, including play parks, and support for existing activities Community development worker – to instigate community events, community support, intergenerational activities, etc Visitor centre focusing on Hebridean art that brings together exhibitions, local artists and digital access Support for local arts and heritage Path networks and cycle paths around Point and Sandwick for safer walking/cycling
Providing assistance to people who are disadvantaged by reason of age, ill-health, disability, financial or other disadvantage	**retention of young people and provision of appropriate facilities/activities** **unemployment/job creation/business development** **an ageing population (including fuel poverty in particular)** **social isolation**	Old Knock School Community Hub development Supplying white goods via bulk purchase Continued support for LED project Helping individual communities to become more self-sustainable energy-wise

	a community hub facility • *climate change, environment & energy efficiency measures* • *sport facility provision, all weather football pitch etc.* • *impact of Brexit &reduction in investment by CnES* • *affordable housing*	Ongoing support for local sports and other clubs, youth clubs and school trips Growing projects, local food produce market, vertical farming scheme exploration/investigation An innovation centre at the college Possible support for a local business development consultant role to provide business support to business/social enterprise start-ups and for growth Investment in light industries and electronics Electric car charging point Financial support to elderly towards heating Support for sporting facilities: Fitness and health and wellbeing measures, including play parks, and support for existing activities Community development worker – to instigate community events, community support, intergenerational activities, etc Path networks and cycle paths around Point and Sandwick for safer walking/cycling Bethesda Hospice

Promoting education, including all forms of training for work and life skills	**retention of young people and provision of appropriate facilities/activities** **unemployment/job creation/business development** **social isolation** • *Gaelic language decline*	Ongoing support for local sports and other clubs, youth clubs and school trips Growing projects, local food produce market, vertical farming scheme exploration/investigation An innovation centre at the college Possible support for a local business development consultant role to provide business support to business/social enterprise start-ups and for growth Investment in light industries and electronics Support for sporting facilities: Fitness and health and wellbeing measures, including play parks, and support for existing activities Community development worker – to instigate community events, community support, intergenerational activities, etc Visitor centre focusing on Hebridean art that brings together exhibitions, local artists and digital access Support for local arts and heritage
Advancing the arts, culture and heritage, including support for the Gaelic arts and the protection of buildings and sites	**retention of young people and provision of appropriate facilities/activities** **unemployment/job creation/business development**	Events e.g. fireworks etc which support community cohesion Ongoing support for local sports and other clubs, youth clubs and school trips

of architectural or historic importance	**an ageing population (including fuel poverty in particular)** **social isolation** • *infrastructure* • *Gaelic language decline* • *local walking routes* • *tourism developments* • *sport facility provision, all weather football pitch etc.*	Garrabost Mill development Coastal path Community development worker – to instigate community events, community support, intergenerational activities, etc Visitor centre focusing on Hebridean art that brings together exhibitions, local artists and digital access Support for local arts and heritage Path networks and cycle paths around Point and Sandwick for safer walking/cycling
Providing and supporting recreational activities for the community, especially for disadvantaged or vulnerable groups, such as young people or the disabled	**retention of young people and provision of appropriate facilities/activities** **an ageing population (including fuel poverty in particular)** **social isolation** **a community hub facility** • *Gaelic language decline* • *local walking routes* • *play parks* • *sport facility provision, all weather football pitch etc.*	Old Knock School Community Hub development Events e.g. fireworks etc which support community cohesion Ongoing support for local sports and other clubs, youth clubs and school trips Coastal path Support for sporting facilities: Fitness and health and wellbeing measures, including play parks, and support for existing activities Community development worker – to instigate community events, community support, intergenerational activities, etc

		Visitor centre focusing on Hebridean art that brings together exhibitions, local artists and digital access Support for local arts and heritage Path networks and cycle paths around Point and Sandwick for safer walking/cycling
Protecting and enhancing the natural heritage and environment	• *climate change, environment & energy efficiency measures* • *infrastructure* • *local walking routes* • *tourism developments*	Continued support for LED project Helping individual communities to become more self-sustainable energy-wise Garrabost Mill development Coastal path Growing projects, local food produce market, vertical farming scheme exploration/investigation Environmental protection and enhancement – specifically woodlands project Electric car charging point Support for local arts and heritage Path networks and cycle paths around Point and Sandwick for safer walking/cycling
Through the relief of poverty in such ways as may be thought fit	**retention of young people and provision of appropriate facilities/activities**	Old Knock School Community Hub development Supplying white goods via bulk purchase

	unemployment/job creation/business development **an ageing population (including fuel poverty in particular)** **social isolation** **a community hub facility** • *climate change, environment & energy efficiency measures* • *tourism developments* • *impact of Brexit & reduction in investment by CnES* • *affordable housing*	Continued support for LED project Helping individual communities to become more self-sustainable energy-wise Ongoing support for local sports and other clubs, youth clubs and school trips Growing projects, local food produce market, vertical farming scheme exploration/investigation An innovation centre at the college Possible support for a local business development consultant role to provide business support to business/social enterprise start-ups and for growth Investment in light industries and electronics Electric car charging point Financial support to elderly towards heating Support for sporting facilities: Fitness and health and wellbeing measures, including play parks, and support for existing activities Community development worker – to instigate community events, community support, intergenerational activities, etc Visitor centre focusing on Hebridean art that brings together exhibitions, local artists and digital access

		Support for local arts and heritage Bethesda Hospice

Some respondents to the online community survey said that there should be more focus exclusively on the Point and Sandwick areas rather than funding projects (e.g. Bethesda) that benefit the wider island community while benefitting Point and Sandwick as well. Respondents also stated that the role of PST investment was not to plug the gaps left by CnES budgets, but to fund specific things to support the local community, and community regeneration and development – this ranged from, on the one hand, supporting local social and sports groups, to investing in major capital projects such as the Old School, Garrabost Mill, and the coastal path.

There is wide support for continuing with 5-year commitments for a small number of organisations, as well as a flexible range of small, medium and large one-off grants as at present. In addition, there is a desire to support 'legacy' projects that would have long term impact on the communities of Point and Sandwick. For example, the refurbishment of the Old Knock School into a new community hub that is able to adapt to community needs as they evolve over the long term by providing a mix of expanded shop and café, adaptable workspaces, book club, meeting rooms, etc.

3.3 Individual vs community benefit

Some individual respondents to the online survey suggested using the wind farm income to make a cash donation to all households regardless of income or need or to all pensioners, or all families upon the birth of a child, for instance. Such suggestions for individual cash donations are included in the appendices for completeness but, as they would be in conflict with the charitable aims and purposes of the Trust as registered with the Charities Regulator with which the Board must comply, the Board will not be taking them forward. The Board will maintain compliance with its charitable objectives by continuing to direct its policy to ensure that all its investment is via community organisations and projects rather than distributed to individuals regardless of an identified need. The underlying principle here is that such local organisations (eg the Parent and Toddler group, Young At Heart, etc), are best placed to identify the areas of need within the community.

4. A Framework for PST Development and Investment for the Next 5 Years

It is clear from the consultation that the seven charitable aims of PST are still valid today, and therefore the Board will continue to focus on investing in these broad areas. The seven charitable aims align well with the common themes that have emerged out of the consultation, as well as the specific projects that have been identified.

4.1 Existing investment commitments

PST has already committed funding to a number of organisations and projects for between the next 3 to 5 years. These projects all fit with the broad seven charitable objectives of the Trust. Further detail is provided below.

Bethesda Hospice

We have a 25-year commitment to support Bethesda because of the unique value and long-term nature of the service it provides to the community. The funding from PST helps the Hospice with the stability and sustainability it needs to be able to provide palliative care to the community when such care is needed. Bethesda is the only hospice in the Western Isles.

Woodland Croft Project
This project has proven hugely popular and successful, especially in Point and Sandwick but also elsewhere in the islands. Over the long term, it will transform the landscape and amenity of our villages, support crofting as a sustainable activity, generate new jobs in supplying locally grown saplings and in long term maintenance and use, and provide recreation and training opportunities to young and old alike. Because of its popularity the aim over the next 5 years is to set up a new local charitable trust to support the project long term, and to supplement the PST contribution with new sources of funding from outside.

Lews Castle Innovation Centre
The Innovation Centre is a new initiative supported by PST and the University of the Highlands and Islands. It delivers on our commitment to support local education and training as well as being a resource that local businesses can access for research and ideas-development, so promoting local economic development as well. PST has also committed to supporting four MSc students at the College which can be in any area, not just in engineering or renewables, and the Innovation Centre will identify the students and projects.

Old Knock School Community Hub.
The Old Knock School has become a vital meeting place for the community, with a very busy local shop, a café, book club, museum exhibitions and a meeting space in the PST office used by a variety of local organisations. PST have committed to a major upgrade and refurbishment of the building which will expand it into a modern, multi-purpose community hub with additional workspaces which will be especially helpful to the increasing number of people working from home and affected by social isolation.

Fuel Poverty and Housing Improvement Project with Tighean Innse Gall
The work undertaken by TIG in partnership with PST will continue along the lines of the current project, that is, providing energy advice visits, energy surveys and energy packs to households in the Point and Sandwick area, and improving home insulation and LED lighting. PST has agreed in principle to continue funding TIG for this project, with levels of investment to be confirmed based on the level of the Trust's income over the next 5 years.

Miscellaneous investments – totalling around £40k/annum.
In addition to the above, a range of grants of up to £5,000 has been committed to a variety of groups for a 5-year period. These include, for instance, the Auction Mart, and the Point Show. Together, these small commitments total £40,000/annum. Some of these groups are already 2 years into their 5-year commitment and the board has made a decision not to enter into further 5-year agreements.

4.2 Fit with National and Local Government priorities

The five priority areas are as given above i.e.: older people (including fuel poverty); young people; social isolation; community hub; and economic development. These themes, and the commitments already made by PST for the next five years, fit well with both the National Outcomes for Scotland[6], and those identified recently at a local level by CnES, which stated the local priorities as:[7]

1. A "Community Wealth Recovery" that builds on the concepts of localism, community capacity and resilience and that positively prioritises local supply chains and local procurement;
2. A "Green Recovery" that maximises the Outer Hebrides unrivalled renewable resources; that aspires to achieve Net Zero Carbon by 2035 and that ensures a robust set of climate change mitigations and adaptations;
3. A "Digital Recovery" that ensures high speed digital infrastructure to every domestic property and every business premises by 2022 and uses that infrastructure to stimulate new business opportunity;

4.3 Creating jobs and maximising income into the community

PST has two other fundamental goals which we try to achieve in all our investment priorities and decisions: creating or sustaining jobs, and maximising the impact of our investment through leveraging new external funds into projects, in addition to our own investment. By doing this, we aim to make the impact of our investments as great as possible.

We employ two local investment consultants to help us to deliver on these goals. They do this by working with other local community organisations to help develop their plans and to make external funding applications. This service has been widely welcomed and has had a considerable impact on those groups they have worked with. Therefore, we aim to continue this support over the next five years.

5. Measuring Our Social Impact

A separate Social Impact Report has been compiled which serves as a valuable partner document to this development plan. The purpose of the Social Impact Review was to evaluate the impact our funding has had and to evidence the difference it has made to groups and organisations in receipt of grants.

Building on that success, we want to improve on the indicators and outputs we will measure in the future. One of the main challenges in measuring our social impact is finding ways to properly capture the actual difference our funding makes to people's lives, the economy, and the environment, without placing too large a burden on the grant recipients. To address this potential challenge, we will ensure there are clear outcomes stated as the

[6] https://nationalperformance.gov.scot/national-outcomes
[7] Economic Recovery Strategy, CnES, Report by Director for Communities, 24 June 2020

desired impact of our individual investment decisions. These will differ from case to case and will take into account the size of the investment.

6. Conclusions

This plan, and the research which has been central in creating it, clearly show that PST has remained true to the aims and objectives it set out in the first community and business plan published in 2013. Crucially, our investment priorities make a significant and positive difference to the groups and organisations we fund. Furthermore, the investments we make create jobs and lever in additional income to the community.

Our investment priorities have matched community needs and the surveys carried out for this new plan provide clear evidence of what PST's investment priorities will be for the next 5 years and how these match community needs. The evidence also shows how critical PST investment has been for some organisations and that, without it, services would have been reduced, projects would not have gone ahead and jobs either lost or not created in the first place. Therefore, our intention for the next five years will be to:

- Steer our investment decisions in line with our seven charitable aims. The seven aims fit well with identified community needs and priority projects.
- Increase our membership in line with the target set in the 2013 Development Plan, from around 400 to 745.
- Support those organisations that we have already committed to supporting (five key investments: Bethesda Hospice; Lews Castle College Innovation Centre; Old Knock School Community Hub; Woodland Croft Project; and energy efficiency/home improvement project with TIG, as well as a number of small community activities), all of which fit with the charitable aims of PST and the priorities identified in the consultation.
- Be flexible on new projects over the next 5 years, taking into account the increased uncertainty over the energy market and therefore of the wind farm income.
- Continue to have two underpinning principles to our investments, mainly to maximise the employment impact through job creation, and to maximise the total external income leveraged in by our investments.
- Continue to support organisations rather than individuals, thereby ensuring that support goes to those most in need.
- Keep open 3 tiers of grants as before, with applicants expected to be delivering against one of the seven charitable aims of PST: Small Grants Fund - up to £1,000; Community Grant Fund - from £1,000 up to £10,000; and Community Development Fund - from £10,000
- Continue to provide expert assistance to groups in the area through the employment of appropriate contractors to give fundraising and technical advice and support.
- Explore some new areas for future development and potential investment – light industry, vertical farming, a business development consultant, bulk purchase of

white goods, and the appointment of a community development officer. These may not be things that PST develops within the life of this plan.

- Look to support organisations to embed monitoring and evaluation of impact of our investment into their own systems
- When reviewing the impact of this five-year plan, we will consider the potential to incorporate the longer-term impact of the initial five-year plan in addition, as the full impact of investments can often take longer to become evident.
- Look to work with local and national partners in developing our work and projects where appropriate.

Appendix – Survey Responses

Grant recipient survey

PST is reviewing its current community investment policy. We want to know your thoughts on what the focus of the next 5 years should be. What do you see as being the main challenges in the Point and Sandwick area for the next five years?

Possible Challenges to people living in the Point and Sandwick area: • An aging Population • A possible reduction in external funding due to Brexit and the withdrawal of European Funds • The continual increase of energy bill (oil and electric) • New Energy Efficiency guidelines (to be effective from 2024), meaning all homes will need to reach a band C if they trigger the regulations – this will be difficult for a lot of people because the triggers are gifting their homes, buying, selling, renting or wanting to make substantial home improvements.
Numerous worthy causes
Capital investment is getting harder to secure so any local source is needed to attract match funding. We have an ageing population and few local industries. Tourism facilities are limited but will be growing. The agricultural input will need to be maintained to reduce food miles.
This charity is struggling in funding parents to stay with their children, escorts to stay with their loved ones on visits to mainland hospitals. We are in competition with cats, dogs and horses for your (GB£) and this is not right.
Continue to enhance / protect the natural environment
I would still focus on supporting the young in point and maybe consider a paid post for youth worker to undertake activities with the children of point.
Creating job opportunities
Other funding sources will be limited in the next few years so projects will have to show measurable outcomes which benefit the island and its residents
Sustainability with aging population
retaining population creating jobs
Economic and population decline.
Environmental, community involvement, social inclusion
The statutory authorities (CnES & HIE) no longer appear to be assisting Community Development. It is essential therefore that organisations like PST provide small grant assistance to help sustains this sector ie; youth & senior citizen groups, community associations, schools etc. Similarly many community organisations struggle to meet ongoing and ever increasing revenue costs, therefore a strand of funding should be available to help revenue costs particularly where such costs support employment and general community health & wellbeing. PST should encourage and hold a reserve fund to assist specific capital projects/costs for larger scale projects but only within the Point & Sandwich area. I consider that these are the 3 main areas of activity PST should address in the next 5 years.
Continued supporting the wider community
I understand PST wanting to find projects/goals that will leave a legacy beyond the wind turbines lifespan. But the current goals and achievements are bringing changes today and making a difference to the communities now.
Climate change and loss of biodiversity are perhaps the biggest challenges facing us - PST's ongoing commitment to supporting woodland expansion on the islands is hugely positive in terms of action on the ground, and influence in the wider policy environment. Consideration needs to

be given to developing skilled contractors and nursery stock growers on the islands to service local needs.
Cuts to public services e.g. public transport Social Isolation and issues with social exclusion for vulnerable and marginalized groups Community care provision-especially for elderly and mental health services Community infrastructure Ageing population demographic Tourism Global warming Sustainability Education and employment
Threats to public services e.g. public transport More people being in poverty (including In work poverty) Ageing population demographic Social isolation Community care - especially in respect of support for the elderly and mental health service provision Development of sustainable tourism Community engagement & community cohesion Investment in young people, especially in respect of entry level job opportunities, apprenticeships and career opportunities for young people who do not want to pursue higher/further education routes. Education Threats to sustainability of service industries, traditional occupations e.g. fishing/crofting
Provision for young people (children) and elderly.
We hope PST continues it's wide range of funding for the many different organisations in the community and that they continue the very broad spectrum of criteria for funding.
Lack of community resources in Point
I also operate a business and I think it would be interesting if funding could work with businesses too for things that would be of benefit to the community. I understand that funding for profit initiatives is more difficult for people to get behind but it can be of great benefit to the community. , I would love to do more work with groups who have barriers to taking part - physical disabilities, mental health problems, or who couldn't afford regular classes. I would love to set up something within the area, at our studio based in Sandwick and using teachers from the area / teaming up with other businesses - We could run exercise / dance / wellbeing / relaxation classes which could be subsidised to work with these hard to reach groups. I think we could add real value but doing this as a business just isn't profitable and whilst I'm happy to volunteer my time, I think to make this sustainable it would need some support behind it. This is just an example, we also run an active ageing programme to try and get people to stay active as they grow older, in particular trying to work with falls prevention and groups such as neuro heb. Links between dance and prevention of conditions such as Dementia have been widely proven. It would be great for example to offer free or subsidised classes to this group, to add in social elements such as tea or coffee after class, to make it as accessible as possible. I believe or studio in Sandwick could become a wellbeing hub for the area providing classes for all, and support / funding would really help us to be as inclusive as possible. I think the line between business and community is much less black and white than funding providers seem to think, and I sure there are other businesses who would be able to provide work to help PST meet its objectives and to support the local community, but who can't currently apply due to being a business. I also think that it is beneficial to support those who are building businesses in the area as this brings in more jobs, and draws people to live and work in the area, and generally makes it a better

place to live. Businesses in rural areas face challenges and being able to apply for funding can really help a local business grow.
There are several large projects which the people of Point would like to see developed - they would all be of benefit to the local community and attract more tourists to the area. The development of the old Knock School into a really good community facility including a shop and cafe is one project, further conservation work at Eaglais na h-Aoidhe is another such project, Point Coastal Path is another, also the development of Garrabost Mill and the nearby industrial archaeological sites and better facilities for the Point Agricultural Show are among these projects.
ideally, a focus on the marine leisure industry as the islands have lost touch with their nautical roots and will need a substantial amount of investment both time and money to see a flourishing marine leisure industry on the island again.
The main challenges for our particular organisation (Samaritans) is to raise awareness of the work and provide outreach to other areas in the Western Isles.
Mental Health Addictions Health Promotion Reduction in poverty
Focus should be to support small organisations within the PST catchment area. Diversify into other areas outside P&S area
Having enough indoor places and spaces open to the public for social and community life to occur.
Creation of employment Maintenance and development of beach walks and tourism enhancement Assistance for isolated older people Wild life preservation Fisheries increase Assistance for individuals living in social deprivation (linked to poverty , mental ill health, substance misuse)
provision of local services is a universal challenge
That funding is shared equitably throughout all the areas of the Island.
Continuing the current focus would be good, as the priorities are pretty comprehensive. As a group of parents who enjoy having access to the facilities at the Knock hub, we hope they will be able to assist with the costs of developing the facility, so that we do not lose this asset, so much loved by ourselves and our children.
The focus should be on supporting capital projects in the PST geographical area.
I realise that there are many challenges facing the islands, which could be supported in partnership with PST. From our point of view the priority is to help provide opportunities for, in particular, our young people to take part in sport and activities to help their physical and mental development. There is much that could be done to support this aspiration at all levels of sport.
PST works well because it views each application on its merits and it willing to consider "left field" ideas - I think that this is important to continue and objectives should be left broad. Overall I believe that it's objectives over the last years (helping to less well off, economic development, environmental and cultural heritage and sustainability) are fine - but don't "Pigeon hole" yourselves too much - support well thought-out proposals, whatever they are.

Would you be hoping for further grant support from PST in the future? If so, please say what for, and how much

We will look at constructing an energy-related service, which will position the Trust and the community to respond to the introduction of Government regulations and strategies. Without such a project the householder will be significantly disadvantaged as they will not have sufficient

data in relation to their property or behaviour. Nor will they have the information required to make informed choices which will provide effective solutions for their energy use. In addition, the Trust will be better positioned to identify and respond to the demands of the community. Our preferred route would be to work with local partners to establish this service, whereby we can supplement TIGs expertise with professionals who would complement our knowledge base. £120K p/a.
Unknown - no longer section leader for Point Beavers and Cubs
Probably. A catering kitchen and polytunnels are on our wish list.
last year (2018) we made grant payments of £8,195 and this year more, with assisting a family in Barra who incurred a lot of expense to and from hospital in Glasgow, unfortunately that patient died. Now we are raising funds to provide a complete haemodialysis station to the southern isles as and when required at an estimated cost of ££18,000 ~ £20,000
Same as before £3000
PST has committed to supported Sgoil an Rubha for 5 years
I would - support cultural / linguistic heritage
Any of our projects that may be eligible.
Yes, for part funding more paths and projects. 100k? Over 5 years
Yes, £5,000 per annum, to continue to maintain the service
possibly, not sure
Possibly, depends on future plans.
Yes, amount difficult to quantify depending on project
Revenue grant to help sustainability and support employment
Phase 2 Refurbishment
We are looking at completing a tea point in a room we have placed soft furnishings recently. The aim here is to enable our elderly community members to have a meeting room.
PST has already committed to funding an additional 5 years of the Croft Woodland project on the Western Isles, commencing July 2020. The anticipated level of funding is >£300k
Yes, to help sustain existing existing services and fund new projects and to help attract match funding. £5k -£10k per year.
We would like to be able to secure the same level of funding as agreed in our current 5 year SLA, currently £50k per annum, to enable us to to sustain existing services and attract match funding. It would also be beneficial to be able to make 'one-off' grant applications for a specific purpose e.g. for capital funding or to fund a new project/venture
Yes. We have some additional match funding from CNES of £2150 following completion of a seesaw for the playpark. We had an initial grant from them for the seesaw and put in a similar amount ourselves so that it is now fully paid. The £2150 is not really sufficient to cover the further playpark equipment we would like and we don't currently have funds of our own to cover the estimated costs - totalling around £5000 to £6000. I'm therefore intending to put a case forward. We also wish to provide several public seating areas to promote social interaction and to enable people with limited mobility to enjoy longer walks. Cost of this is likely to be in the region of £1000 per seating location.
We continue to make every effort to make things better in our community. We would be grateful for any level of funding for enhancing our equipment such as assistance towards the cost of a new generator or more ground matting to allow access for wheelchair users to many of the community events we help out with
Yes, for site development. Amount unknown at present.
Yes for our cheerleading and dance club - we would love funding for uniforms / equipment / attending competitions / training. If you were open to businesses I would have lots of other ideas too!

We are hoping for on-going sponsorship of our annual Colm Cille Lectures. However we are currently looking for £500k to complete the conservation and development of Eaglais na h-Aoidhe and we are hoping that PST will be able to contribute towards this.
yes as the majority of the club members are residents of point and we would love to run some small workshops for the local community and possibly run a series small boat gatherings in one of the many harbours on their patch. £5000
If there was Grant support available it is likely that it would be used to consider satellite outreach in an area, for example UIst, where there is not a Samaritans Branch.
Not a present
£5,000 per annum(current amount received) towards running costs and salaries of project staff. Higher amount would be welcome!
<£1000
Yes, to develop the old shop space at Burncrook as a museum and shop that captures the local heritage of the shop through historical archive, photos and story recordings from people's memories of how it use to be.
We would be very grateful indeed for further grant assistance , ideally to the same extent as previously for the core service provided. .This would be very helpful in terms of being able to achieve sustainability and for planning and development also.
yes, for a similar project that benefits the social and cultural heritage of the area
Yes - To continue to maintain our service and the potential to expand , by offering an increase in support for existing clients and also new clients.
The same amount year on year for our Christmas party would be good. As toys etc become damaged, we may request assistance in purchasing new toys.
Yes, a grant of £5,000 for groundcare equipment.
Yes. To help support our club in it's aims to support the development of existing and new members. The club has aspirations to have a development officer. We also have plans to build a clubhouse to create a hub for our members and the wider community.
We would hope that PST would continue to support us and develop what we started. The money would be dependent on what we would need to develop, but would be likely in the region of out previous grants.

What would be the impact on your organisation if you did not receive funding from PST in the next five years?

The credibility, both we and PST have gained, particularly with Government, through the current phase will be diminished and an opportunity lost to build on the success. Also, our ability to deliver and lever in funds for Point and Sandwick will be negatively impacted. The loss of 1 FTE. The investment made in the staff member to date, again, would be lost and the local knowledge gained through the current phase, to a large degree, would be lost. Our aim would be to build on the knowledge base acquired and to find ways to maximise inward investment. Without the funding this will be impossible.
It would limit any development
Our Trustees will ensure that any money received from PST would be spent seeking the relief of poverty, sickness and distress of kidney patients. should this funding dry up then the distress of the patients can only be imagined
The place would look shabby and uncared for
We would be asking parents for more money and in this current climate that is a lot. We would probably have to stop P7 trips

We would seek funding elsewhere.
Other sources of funds would be needed to do anything
Reduction of service
Decline in own reserves and possibility of the organisation folding.
Would struggle to remain sustainable or to develop
The organisation could close down with loss of employment and loss of support for disadvantaged and vulnerable people throughout the Western Isles
Slower moving forward
We would use more of our time and resources to seek funding instead of directly engaging community projects.
We would not be able to employ a Western Isles based woodland adviser. This would strictly limit our capacity to deliver woodland schemes on the Western Isles, relying either on contractors or occasional visits from mainland based staff members
It would be a significant loss to an organisation whose annual turnover is currently £85,000 per annum. It could impact on sustainability of employment of existing staff members.
The impact would be fairly catastrophic as it would potentially impact on our ability to attract match funding and also threaten the sustainability of existing staff post.
We might be unable to develop the playpark further to benefit all Point and Sandwick children. We would have to undertake additional fund raising for other projects.
The organisation would continue with the dedication of the volunteers but would be limited due to lack of funding. Maintenance costs are very high for the equipment we use.
Potential loss of free Christmas dinner for local Over 60s each year
We would fundraise via soup and puddings etc, but probably not be able to provide any new equpment without an outside funder
Sponsorship of Lectures - our own funds will gradually diminish. Major Conservation funding - we will continue seeking the funding elsewhere, but this will take much longer and the area will miss out on the numerous additional visitors our project will attract to Point.
We would like to get more locals re-engaged with their coast, inland lochs, and marine environment and if our numbers grow we would like to build a new skiff. Without funding for projects like these we are limited in how many people we can help get out on the water and how often people can get out on the water.
We would continue to self fund which and apply for other funding opportunities.
Not needed at present
Would require funding to be sourced elsewhere If unsuccessful in any funding stream service delivery has to be reviewed
Would possible struggle to find funding
We would apply to other sources and hopefully manage to secure adequate funds elsewhere.
We may have to reduce our service or worst case scenario if we could not achieve the same funding from elsewhere and other sources of funding were removed, we would have to close the service.
certain projects may not happen or their progress will be slowed
If we did not receive funding carers would loose hrs and we would not be able to maintain the level of service we provide at present.
The parents would have to pay for things themselves. While some parents are able to do this comfortably, not all parents are in that position. This is especially true at Christmas time, when there are so many demands on family finances. Before we got this grant, some parents chose not to go to the party. No reasons were given, but we suspect it was financial issues that were at the root of it. Now there is a level playing field.

We would need to review our ambitions to develop our facilities and channel all our resources into revenue spending.
There are obviously other avenues of support and we would have to explore these.
It would help us to develop and obtain further matched funding - and for us to reach more users in the community.

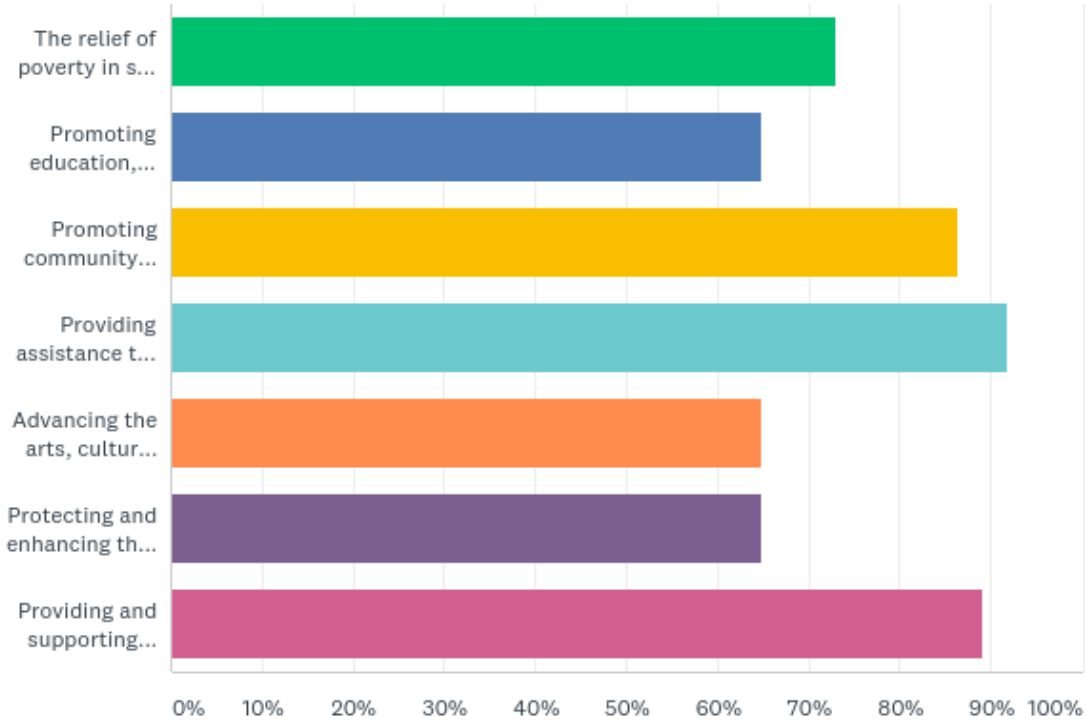
Please use the space below to make any other comments you want to add about how PST has invested in the past or might invest in the future.

Tighean Innse Gall has been very fortunate and grateful to receive funding from the Point and Sandwick Trust. The way the Trust invests funding has been impressive, proposals are assessed in line with the PST community development plan, charitable aims and funding priorities. It is great to see that the trust allocates funding to help people of the Western Isles and does not restrict it to only Point and Sandwick residents. Future investment should follow the example set. Having the provision of 5 year funding help projects succeed.
A great fund
It has invested well and houses have had insulation and energy advice. Ongoing projects will need to report outcomes regularly
The money invested in WIKPA plus other funds received was able to provide some of our patients with a mainland holiday. Money well spent! as it was the first holiday that they had had in all the time they have been on dialysis locally. We did receive some adverse remarks from the ignorant who did not realise that the patients had still to attend at hospital for dialysis the same three days each week five hours daily. The joy and excitement of the patients on their return after seeing children and grandchildren made our efforts at fund raising all the more worthwhile. It is only by large donations such as that from PST that we are able to keep our reserves in a healthy state. Investment in the people of this island will give great returns to the whole community
Fantastic scheme - easy to deal with. DJ especially helpful!
I think PST are great in supporting the community
A very good range of investments, though some have shown minor benefits to PST area. (Lanntair). There will always be demand for new projects and maintenance of facilities.
PST are to be congratulated on the valuable support and investment they have provided for community organisations to date. I think that the three main strands mentioned above should be a consideration for future years 1) Small Grants programme 2) Revenue support (particularly where such assistance support employment retention and community health and wellbeing) 3)Create a funding stream to assist more substantial capital projects within the PST area only costs.
Past investments EXCEPTIONAL and if possible maintain it in the future
I would say keep doing what you are doing. Many small projects make a difference to the community today.
I think that the decision to support woodland planting across the whole of the Western isles form 2015 was far sighted and timely. There is an opportunity to scale up tree planting activity in the coming years, involving more people and using more local resources, particularly locally grown trees
PST has an excellent track record of community investments locally and we would whole hardheartedly support the continuation of investment in a diverse rang of local projects that have clear community benefits.

I think PST have done an absolutely amazing job or supporting local community via it's investments and has been very ethical in both its investment choices and in how and who it has chosen as its local beneficiaries.
All seems quite helpful
PST made the application very simple. A face to face meeting was an added bonus as it allowed us to portray our passion for our group's work, not just filling in forms using 'slick' terminology.
Too much funding being spent outwith Point. Need to look at developing resources within Point. Also I have heard that funding criteria is sometimes opaque & not necessarily in line with that published.
i think PST does a great job and have supported lots of great projects, we are very lucky to have them
PST has been of huge benefit to the Point and Sandwick areas - not only in funding many organisations, but also in increasing the confidence and optimism of the area. Many small organisations have benefitted financially, which is great, but now I think it is time for PST to look at the broader picture on Point and to consider how it can help develop new facilities for both locals and tourists.
Point and Sandwick Trust has made the Stornoway rowing club safer. The coxes of Madadh Ruadh can have confidence that with the new equipment we are safer and can enjoy what can be a dangerous environment with the knowledge that we have good equipment.
We have been delighted with the Grant, and the resources which it has allowed us to purchase. Also the publicity we have received from PST for which we are very appreciative. Many thanks.
PST invest in really worthy causes locally, with out assistance like this groups would have to fundraise themselves and whilst we are in such a rural location this can become very difficult. Their financial support has such a major impact on projects to keep our community thriving.
I believe the strategy PST has used has been very positive. They are not there to replace statutory funding but to have enhanced and supported are variety of local organisations who provide invaluable services at a local level.
PST has contributed a lot of energy towards helping the community
At this stage it would be great to use funds to develop the old shop space at Burncrook, Upper Bayble for it's touristic potential and support of local community activity making the best of it's central location and close access to the beach. It would be good to use this to enhance village life and turn the tide against it's increasing "commuter town" feel.....i.e encouraging cars to slow down at the crossroads enabling safer pedestrianisation.
The Board of PST would be best placed to make these decisions I would think , but asking the local community for their views would be very helpful - not just asking those who can attend meetings but a wider section of the community?
We are very grateful for the investment of PST to Crossroads and would hope that in the future we could secure further funding in the future. . The nature of our service is such that when we start to provide carer support to an individual or family, the certainty of being able to continue with that support is an essential part of what we do. Getting a fixed commitment for a 3 or 4 your period from a key funder is really helpful to us. We are not a service that can easily downscale to match an unexpected downturn in resources, though we do monitor very carefully out income profile against expenditure at every board meeting.
We approve of the whole range of support given by PST in the past, as this has been transformative in our community and hope that they continue to explore the benefits of renewables for the good of the community and the environment.
We have found PST very receptive to requests for support and trust that it will continue to be helpful.
From what I have seen, PST has supported a wide range of projects across it's stated priorities.

Just keep up the excellent work and keep funding projects which might lead to economic development and the upskilling of the island community in general and workforce in particular - particularly in the field of new and high technology (because hardly anyone else is doing that).

Thinking about the next five years which, if any, of the following priorities should be the focus of future investment by PST? Please tick all that apply.



Are there any other areas that PST should focus on in the next five years? Please specify below

We hope that the partnership between Tighean Innse Gall (TIG) and Point and Sandwick Trust (PST) can continue and that funding will be available to TIG in order for us to continue to help people in Fuel Poverty, energy efficiency related projects throughout Point and Sandwick. The priorities PST have been focused on throughout the past, are wide reaching and are well placed to enables a wide range of benefits to all sectors of the community. It may be beneficial to the Western Isles for PST to ring fence funding for individuals in extreme fuel poverty or significant debt that cannot access any other form of help, this funding could be assessed by an appropriate partner such as Tighean Innse Gall for insulation, energy measure or CAB for debt relief. Point are well placed to become a UK exemplar setting for Electric vehicles, time-of-use tariffs, micro-grid establishment etc.
Broadly, keep doing as before.
Supporting the crofting community. Provide a large community hall facility.
Get school trips to the turbines. Allow the children to gain a better understanding of what the turbines are achieving.
Maintaining the vigour and commitment of the excellent board and staff
Providing support, information and advice to promote sustainable living and reduce negative environmental impact, reduce food and energy waste to local businesses and householders.

Supporting development of Western Isles Social Enterprise initiatives
Having attempted funding from many different bodies, we find PST are very unique in their attitude towards awarding grants. We hope they continue in their current direction in considering so many varied groups and not just 'ring fencing' certain categories.
Look at supporting organisations that are island wide but benefit a significant number of people within Point.
Supporting businesses, start ups, self employed, entrepreneurs in the local area as seen fit
As described above - some infrastructure projects, which probably come under community development and rural regeneration.
port nag
Mental health issues. Suicide Prevention Reducing loneliness in the community
Mental health
Tourism, mental health, local food, access to and use of polytunnels. Children's parks and recreation....indoor roller skate park for example!!
The previous pages outline well a wide number of areas which are all important.
care in the community
Their use of Gaelic in the past year is commendable and reflects the bilingual nature of our community. Many of the children in our group will be entering Gaelic medium education and we hope PST will continue with this initiative.
I would like to see some support for our talented young islanders from sport, music, culture to help them progress despite the barriers of living on an island
No I think you have it covered. I might mention promotion of new business (and thereby the creation of wealth) and upskilling (particularly in high technology) more specifically.

Are there any specific projects, ideas, activities that you think PST should invest in over the next five years? Please specify below

• LED Energy Community – Phase two • Fuel Poverty/debt relief fund • Continuation of current funding levels for Bethesda and other charitable groups etc • Western Isles: Micro-renewables feasibility study and similar research areas
Given the current health issues, a bit early to tell.
The school would love their own minibus. Costs of taking them places is becoming more and more
I think the community of Point ought to have a community hall similar to Back, Breascleit, Uig etc. Appoint a full time development officer to advance projects on behalf of community
Continue support as before
Community groups to reduce social isolation in our communities.
Continue to invest in projects with clear community benefit locally
Supporting community to access information, advice and support to promote sustainable living (in both commercial and domestic context). Promoting sustainable tourism and investing in training/education/development of this to enable more local people to be able to develop sustainable income from tourism.
If public transport becomes insufficient, a dial a ride service might be helpful. Continuing development of Point Show would be helpful. Also continued development of footpaths.
Bethesda Hospice in Stornoway.
Befriending

local festival for the area like at bayble beach
The Old Knock School Eaglais na h-Aoidhe Point Coastal Path Garrabost Mill Point Agricultural Show
call of the sea project being run by Heb gateway and possible an RYA Discover sailing day
Investing in any worthy cause
Completion of coastal walk
Burncrook Upper Bayble shop/museum potential.
The creation of employment and apprenticeships for young people in for ex modern plumbing and electrical work. Caring for the disadvantaged in whatever way this presents itself.
Transportation in the Community - Supporting people to get to groups -
The Knock development
Asides from support for our own sport, I would personally like to see PST supporting the Western Isles Island Games Association participate in the NatWest International Island Games, which has helped encourage young people to participate in sport.
I think perhaps they should consider providing trees and expertise to replant the areas of the castle grounds that the trust have managed to denude of vegetation through their incompetence - before the nutrients leech out and the soil erodes. The castle grounds is a unique resource accessible by everyone and has unique importance - it ticks several of your "boxes".

Community Survey

What do you see as being the main challenges in the Point and Sandwick area for the next five years?

climate change challenges fuel poverty issues
Collaborating with other community groups. Unemployment, lack of affordable houses.
Falling number of Gaelic speakers; ageing population; employment opportunities
lack of investment in infrastructure by CNES
I think that a precedence has been set for distributing funding across the western isles and there is a danger that this can lead to statutory bodies not allocating resources where they should be. This can leave less for the community led and grassroots projects.
Things like speed limits, accessibility to areas without fear of walking along a road. Having pavements installed throughout Point would make a massive difference.
Finding worthwhile Projects to support
elderly care support for people who need it
Development of our community, economically and socially. We are not on the Hebridean way so missing out tourism promotion. There is no support for local businesses to develop in point, as other trusts offer. There is no dedicated community facility which offers space for youth, sports and community work, as in Back and Ness. The playparks are poor quality. There is little investment in service for young people locally, when compared with other areas. This offer little incentive for them to stay in local community. Please see galson estate for a comparison. They offer youth club, after school, cycle clubs, mens groups. Local. People are facing fuel poverty, travel issues, child poverty issues. A fund to support with costs of winter clothing and crisis times as found in other areas would provide practical help. To have this much money in an area and still have people accessing food banks and struggling to buy winter clothing for children highlights the disconnect between pst and the community. We are one of the only areas to not have a development worker in any form. Where other areas have a development worker, the community development provides benefits, for example, community events, projects, youth and elderly work.
More groups and people wanting funding from outside P&S area.
Getting an inter connector. Which has been made into a huge obstacle by lewis wind power and eon
Getting rid of its dictatorial regime and introducing democracy and accountability.
EMPLOYMENT POVERTY
Keeping the community happy that they are benefiting something from this
The challenges should include a new build community hub, along with A strategy to fund start up genuine social enterprise businesses in the point and sandwick area. Buth an ruba should be a genuine community shop with profits returned to the community
The main challenge will be to help community organisations cope with local authority cuts in services and fewer funding opportunities available. PST must not fill in gaps in statutory services which should be provided by the council, health board or government.
Services and all weather facilities for the youth on a similar scale to the sports centres at Ness and Back. Adequate play areas so they have somewhere safe to play on when it gets dark early.

Dedicated youth workers to support and develop opportunities for children. Befriending and hot meals for older people. More social opportunities for people to meet others in the community.
Isolation. Lack of social activities both for young and old people.
It would be great to have a multi purpose facility built like they have down in Back.
Paths. Land reform in partnership with Crofting legacy. Decarbonization.
Retention of younger people and the provision of facilities to allow younger people to thrive.
The braighe closures with the adverse weather being more frequent.
Ensuring a fit, active and creative community. Access to facilities for all.
Lack of community spirit! Challenges to provision of Health & Social Care Cuts in investment for youth projects sports activities
Diversity of projects due to the emerging complex needs of the community due to withdrawal of council support
Not enough for the young ones to keep them away from troubles
Promoting health and activities for young people
Stopping exodus of young people from point
There are big opportunities for more tourist development. For example, a cetacean centre with cafe at the old school, a sculpture trail, a bird hide near Tiumpan Head Loch etc etc - we NEED more tourists.
Job creation and retention, stabilising the community and enhancing the local environment, encouraging community cooperation
SOLVING THE PROBLEM OF POINT BEING CUT OFF FROM THE REST OF THE ISLAND
Environment
Braighe closures
A key priority, which is also a challenge, is ensuring that the proposed development at Knock will go ahead. Securing funding to bring about the plans to make this community hub and valued asset sustainable will have benefits in terms of employment, community cohesion, individual and group well-being. If this development were to be stalled, it would severely impact the future existence of groups such as the Comann Eachdraidh and the Rudhach. The issues described in 6 below also apply.

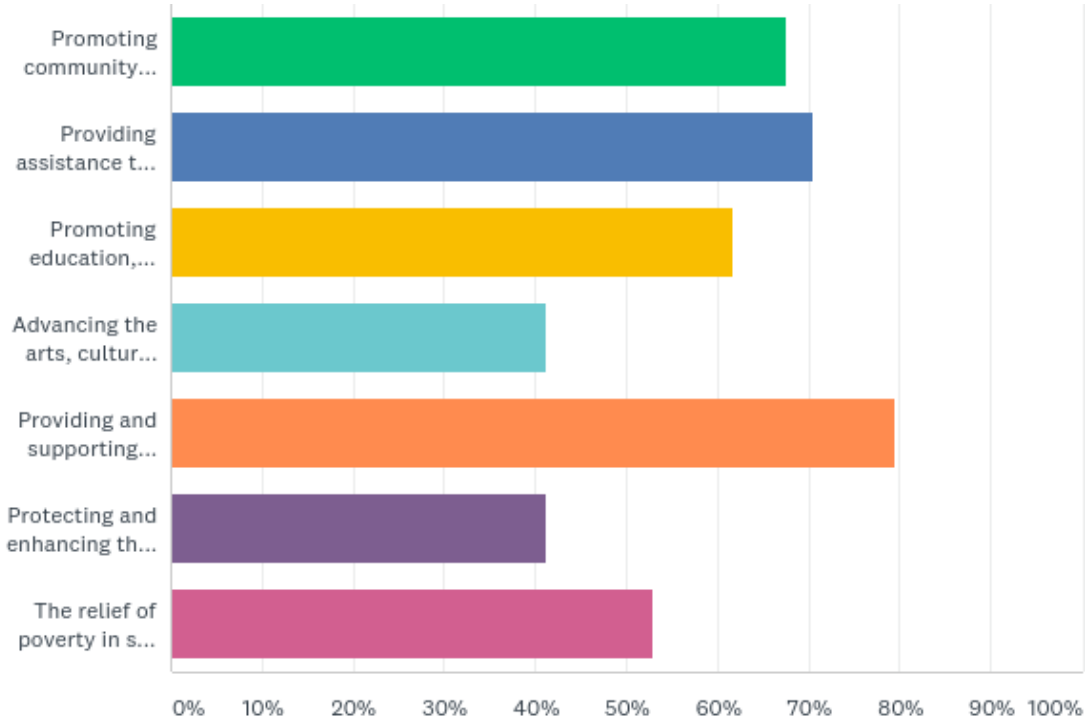
What do you see as being the main challenges in the Western Isles for the next five years?

as above and including economic regeneration
Longer winters and extreme weather. increasing housing and heating prices. Unemployment. Lack of affordable houses. Bullying in schools and workplaces.
As above
lack of investment in infrastructure by CNES
Depopulation, food and fuel poverty
Second home purchases pushing up prices throughout the island. Evidence of this happening and the huge effect it has had on small communities can be seen in and around places such as Cornwall.
Retaining the Youth
elderly care support for people who need it
Population decline, elderly population and low wages. This can be addressed in point through encouraging young people to be employed in their area,

addressing childcare and after school provision and asking parents if current provision suits needs. Assumptions are being made that things are ok in community when they are not. Supporting local businesses to develop would be helpful. In other areas, people are supported to access training and education through financial support.
Brexit and cuts from Tory govmt
Challenges from tourists and busy marine activity. Not enough of an infrastructure to support all of this. Also the dreaded BREXIT will definitely create new challenges.
Population retention and job creation.
HOUSING EMPLOYMENT YOUNG LEAVING TO FIND WORK
Employment for younger generation, affordability to buy property
P&st should now consider a function in economic development. They now have the experience having achieved and flourished against so many obstacles (mostly engineered by the comhairle.)
Coping with increased austerity measures from the local authority and government and adapting to climate change. The WI community are resilient and ambitious- community buyouts, community windfarms- and the council and government should support and facilitate that ambition.
Lack of funding for social care, education and services for the youth. The ageing population do not receive adequate care and their is not the funding to support children in education, their emotional development or socially leading to an increase in mental health problems and substance misuse.
Encouraging young people to come together in a healthy way that takes them in to the wider community and away from more solitary activities ie internet tv gaming , Helping young people develop valuable life skills which in turn will help the community as a whole.
Maintaining a talent youth workforce
As above. The retention of young people.
Helping the youth on the island that have mental health issues. There are not adequate services, help for them and it appears to be getting worse.
Keeping young people on the island and enticing young families to return by ensuring that our facilities/activities are a match to any on the mainland.
Central government cuts to local authority budget will have a knock on effect to service throughout the islands. Local authority will have to prioritise largest need. Sports and recreation will lose out a lot.
Less and less physical activity
Trying to promote health and well-being
To encourage employers and tourists to come here and remain/keep coming back. Support from CNES is woefully inadequate re: locals and tourists. Why not fund the re-opening of the Library cafe? Push CNES to get some tenants in those empty shops in town... Fund some expansion of the market.
Decreasing budgets from central government, need to be more creative in funding projects, climate change
PROTECTING FISHING WATERS FROM FOREIGN BOATS POST BREXIT MAYBE. ALSO PROTECTING MARINE ENVIRONMENTS AND SHORELINES FROM POLLUTION AND EROSION
Lack of well paid work
Population decline. School leavers forced to move away to find work.
Moving to more dependence on renewable energy solutions, and having vision and funding to implement this. Securing the interconnector.

The reduction of funding from Scottish Government, leading to poorer service for the population. Retaining population, especially in the remoter areas.

PST is reviewing its current community investment policy. We want to know your thoughts on what the focus of the next 5 years should be. Thinking about the next 5 years which, if any, of the following priorities should be the focus of future investment by PST? Please tick all that apply



Are there any other areas that PST should focus on in the next 5 years? If so, please specify below

real fuel poverty measures where the impact is measured larger scale projects that will have economic benefit
Creating jobs for local people.
Investing more funding in Point and Sandwick. Other areas where wind farm funds are available seem to benefit more as the funds are distributed within that locality.
Installing pavements and walk ways throughout Point. It really would make such a huge difference.
supporting hyper-local enterprises
Electric charging points.
The above should be main priority but less spent on heritage projects. Although I'm glad the Ui Church was renovated and don't see the point in the coastal path. Who is going to want to walk all around Point? Very unrealistic and sounds really dangerous for a family activity. I would never take my kids to a cliff!!!
Point (and Sandwick) ....sustainable job creation.
FOCUS ON THE PEOPLE THAT LIVE IN THE AREA AND ALLOW THEM TO BENEFIT FROM SOME OF THIS MONEY
Playpark at ionad stoodie

Economic development, and in particular social enterprise. Help and assistance with start ups etc
PST will not have the capacity, unless they are allowed to build more turbines, to focus on alleviating poverty or providing assistance to the aged or disabled- that is the responsibility of the statutory services. There are major capital works in need of funding in the PST area, the Old Mill, the Eye Church, coastal path, the Old Knock School for example, and PST should concentrate on these projects.
Providing supplemental care for the elderly and services for the youth so they are engaged in healthy activities.
Children and young people. Helping young people find healthy social activities which bring them together.
Land access and decarbonisation
The provision of a dedicated facility that can be used for a variety of activities. Particularly sporting and entertainment events.
An all weather facility would be a great investment for our youth so that sports could go ahead at all times it would also bring the community together more.
Sport & recreation Community care - day centre services for elderly, vulnerable groups
Advancing personal fitness in children and adults alongside encouragement to travel sustainably - safe bike paths in point and to Stornoway.
Supplying equipment for sports clubs
Braigh closure. Better protection for motorists
Tourism!!!
Cooperation with other organisations is essential. Too many present funders work in isolation without any vision for cooperative working.
SOLVING THE PROBLEM OF BRAIGH CLOSURES
It would be great if the people of Point and Sandwick. Could get something like The village of Tolsta get their Christmas shopping every year.
The above, in 7, are pretty wide and can accommodate what is needed. PST's recent focus on having a higher Gaelic profile is a very welcome development, and is worthy of wider recognition - maybe the 2020 Gaelic awards?

Are there any specific projects, ideas, activities that you think PST should invest in over the next 5 years? If so, please specify below

build a legacy on climate change mitigation projects develop a means where community can gain a direct energy tariff benefit
Food security, food growing. Skills for employment. Create "Green jobs" for local people. More tree planting.
Coastal path. Garrabost mill.
Playparks in point and Sandwick. This and other initiatives that benefit everybody and not just a section of the community. Other inclusive initiatives include community cafes and development of community centres e. g. Aird and knock
Youth club would be a great investment. It offers a safe space for children to socialise. A strong investment and backing from PST would mean a long term investment in the younger generation.
Developing innovative solutions to the crisis in care provision - local mini enterprise that support people.
Community facility to run youth club, community groups, intergenerational groups. A community development worker to lead on activities and identify local priorities and required

activities Support for local groups to develop provision Hardship fund for local people in crisis. Financial support for residents to attend hospital on mainland Support for residents with heating costs Opportunities for socially isolated people in community to come together Youth activities and support for youth club Tourism development
All weather pitch as per in Back. Kids missing out on footy training in bad weather. Could def have other uses, not just footy.
Definitely building a new concert hall, that the brownies etc can use. Maybe enhancing the knock school
A local scheme to help local organisations. A development officer Youth club support worker. A couple of general handymen to work with local projects
SHAWBOST AND TOLSTA SEEM TO BE ABLE TO ALLOW RESIDENTS TO BENEFIT WITH COOP VOUCHERS AT CHRISTMAS, BURSUARIES, DRIVING LESSONS. ENHANCING AREA WITH PLANTERS AND LIGHTS
New build multi function community hub with shop, cafe, pub, hall , offices ,petrol station etc Community garden, polytunnel, shed Develop local places of interest to encourage local tourism , including buildings, archaeology, and pathways. Encourage social enterprise ie gardening services, window cleaning, boat building, community caterers, bakers, befriending groups, transport mini buses , car charging ports.
See above!
A multi purpose all weather facility next to the football pitch. Dedicated youth/social care workers. Support for the youth club and junior football team like bringing up expert coaches/ mainland competitions. PE/art/music experts in the school. A school counsellor. The swing parks, some of which need a lot of work. A youth council so their voice is heard. Facilities and services for those with impairments.
The Isle of Lewis gymnastics club would be a valuable investment. It's is a voluntary group meeting every Saturday morning for over thirty years. The children attending this club age from 4 years to 18yrs old. Volunteers have gone through gymnastic coach training to be able to provide the service. Many of them parents who see the benefits of gymnastics for there children's enjoyment and well being. Although the club has equipment, most of it is very tired and worn. It would be a wonderful boost to the club and its members to receive a grant to buy much needed equipment. As a child I attended this club and it brought so much joy to my childhood. Moving back to the island as an adult and parent I was unsure of what activities would be on offer to my children. I was so pleased to see that the club was still running and that some of the coaches that coached me were still involved. As this is all voluntary, I was amazed. I am now involved and my children attend the group. Gymnastics is enjoyed by both girls and boys equally. It's a fantastic sport with skills that prove to benefit us with other sports. As we now see in primary school, children are taught PE by their main teacher, who are maybe not qualified or confident to teach children gymnastics. Clubs like the Isle of Lewis gymnastics club are a real asset to young people growing up.
I think it would be great to have a development worker for Point area. I think a facility like back have would be a great idea. We have between 35-50 kids attending our youth club so need to do something, provide something for that.

Yes, all weather facility like the one at Upper Coll with maybe additional facilities.
Creating a covered sports/multi function facility in point. Air dome over astro. Huge benefits for 40 years at an affordable cost.
An indoor all weather pitch beside the current football pitch in Garrabost (like the facility in Back) and extension of Ionad Stoodie to create a fitness suite, office space (with WiFi), bigger kitchen and function area for multi uses, day services for elderly, weddings, events etc. Ionad Stoodie is most ideal location as it is most central within the community.
Bike paths in point and to Stornoway
Child development
The Isle of Lewis Gymnastics Club
Why not fund the re-opening of the Library cafe? Fund/help to promote our the Narrows to new businesses. Fund some expansion of the local Cromwell Street market. Point sculpture trail. Bird hide at TiumpanHead loch. Cetacean centre with cafe.
Garrabos Mill, art centre, tourism centre at the lighthouse, coastal path to include Steinish, Sandwick memorial, Iolaire Exhibition to travel off island, path from Mackenzie Park to Sandwick Hall, local piers
IMPROVING SEA DEFENCES AT THE BRAIGH
They should give grants to people who wants to plant trees and gardens to make the whole island look a lot better
Assist in alternative route across the Braighe
The Knock School project is the main priority in terms of capital investment. Continue to give Gaelic recognition.

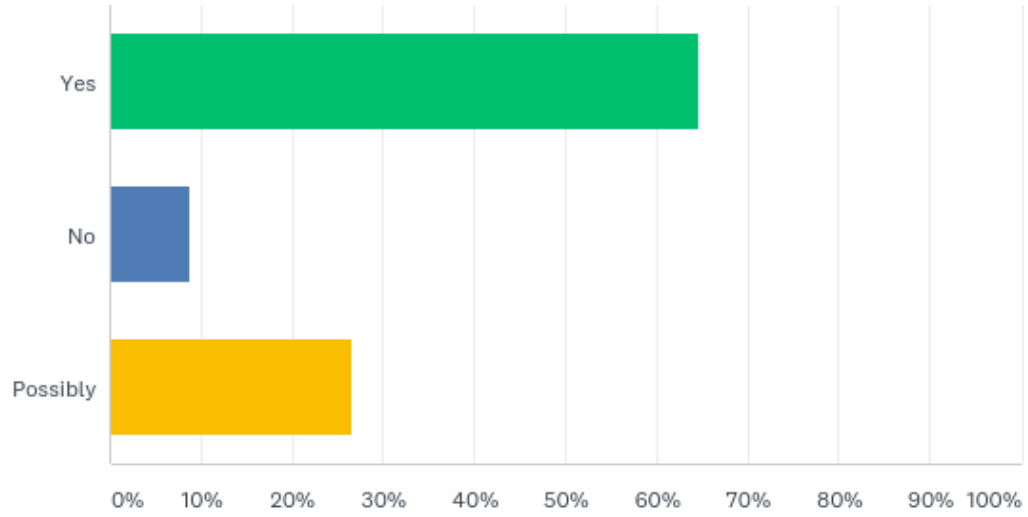
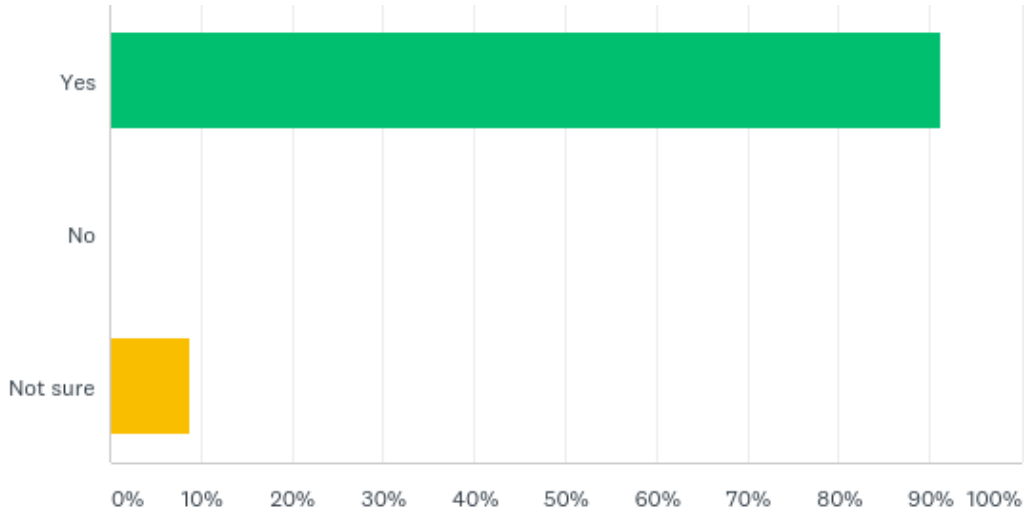
Please use the space below to make any other comments you want to add about how PST has invested in the past or might invest in the future.

again focus on larger projects with an energy emphasis
Excellent at communications about projects happening all over the island. Great partnership with TIG to help with home energy problems.
Meeting space for small groups.
Promoting and trying to support for an Interconnector to allow other Communities to emulate PST
Working in partnership with CNES, NHS, CAB, Alzheimers etc to build community resilience.
The potential to really help our community and help the genuine problems facing people in the area is there, but so far, this is not happening. Support for.people in crisis, families and individuals on low incomes, provision of community events and groups, and strengthening the community through community development approaches would benefit residents. A point community worker would help these issues.
Who on earth elected Chris Tom to your board? Very out spoken and rude person. Troll on social media, keyboard warrior and should not speak as he does about CNES - his employer! He has put many people off joining PST. Not a good choice as a rep from Point Community Council (which he was not elected on either).
Just want to say they are doing a fantastic job in a really harsh economic situation. Thank you all!
Invested based on the whim of its manager. Irrationally, very often biased and inconsistent

UNLESS I END UP IN BETHESDA I HAVENT GAINED ANYTHING FROM THIS TRUST , PLEASE ALLOW THE FAMILIES IN THE AREA TO GAIN SOMETHING
As a residence of the area I appreciate the monetary donations made to Bethesda and the likes however when I see and hear what tolsta are doing it disappoints me that we cannot do similar ie 3 Driving lessons for all 17 year old in area Small repair grants scheme for elderly Christmas lights in area Plant pots in area Bursary for students £300 for every household at Christmas, I'd be happy with £30! I haven't even had a lightbulb supplied yet!
I am delighted with the work p&st have achieved over the past 5 years, however i feel that the £2 million they have distributed has not had any real tangible impact in the community. A new build community hub would benefit the whole of the area and give the Trust physical evidence of their commitment .
PST have done a good job in delivering their first 5 year plan. That ambition and vision must be maintained going forward.
PST seems to invest in island wide charities rather than building services in the PST area and then allocating any excess to these services.
It’s fantastic to invest in the Western Isle community as a whole (Bethesda Hospice in particular) but the priority should remain within P&ST area.
Aiding to buy a spring floor and bars for the Gymnastics Club in Stornoway
I KNOW that some of my suggestions overlap with CNES's role but if they are not doing it, wind farm money should fill the gap!
I think PST has done very well over the past five years and has invested well. It has learned that more targeting is required in future to legacy work and I approve of that.
SEE ABOVE - A NEW, HIGHER SEA WALL IS REQUIRED. ONE THAT IS CURVED AWAY FROM THE ROAD TO DIVERT WAVES AND DEBRIS AWAY FROM THE ROAD INTO THE SEA
The grants that are given out at the moment do not cover a lot of the people of Point and Sandwick they should be more direct money given for those areas only
Majority of funds should be spent in Point and Sandwick areas
Having your office in the community gives a good message and I hope this will continue. Investing in heritage projects.

Woodland Survey

Will you plant more trees as a result of having contacted the Croft Woodlands Project?



Do you think it is appropriate for Point and Sandwick Trust to continue to support the Croft Woodlands Scheme?