



26 years of owning and managing multiple assets on a peedie island in Orkney



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Westray

Some things you might not know

- Westray is one of Orkneys North Isles
- Area 11,646 acres
- Population 558
- Industry mainly agriculture and aquaculture.
- We have Kalisgarth, our Care Centre
- We have a Junior High - Nursery to 16 years
- Westray Development Trust was established in 1999
- Currently have 8 directors
- 20 employees
- Many Volunteers

We have a lighthouse, castle, puffins, the Westray Wife and our golf course has the longest par in Scotland.



Westray Development Trust

How it began

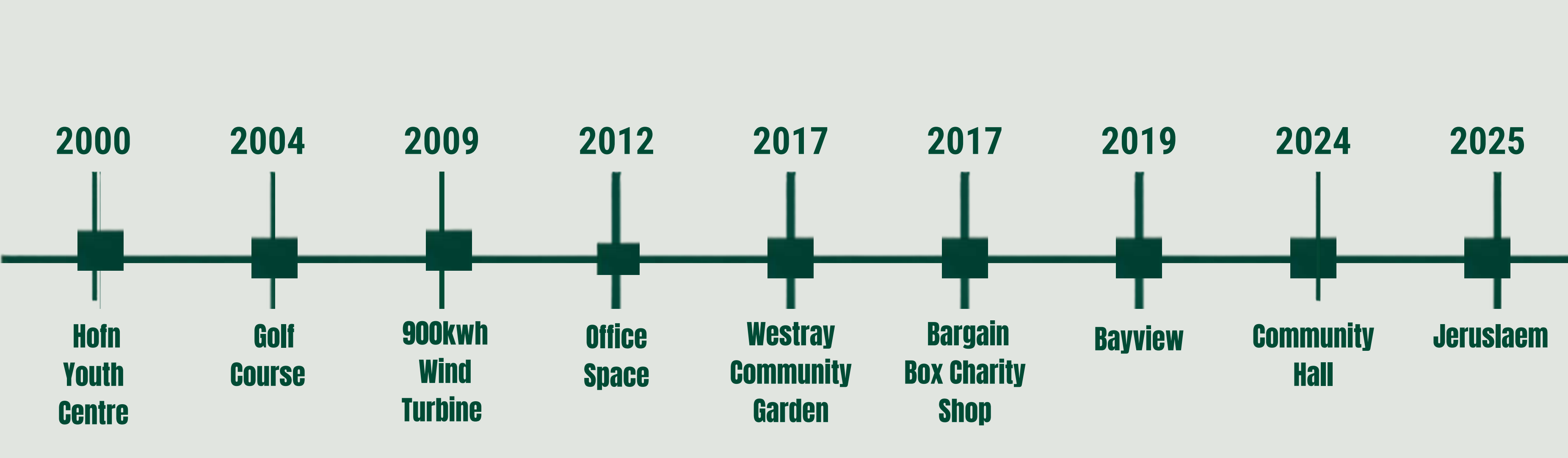
- Depopulation
- Lack of employment opportunities
- Care for the elderly
- Changing Industry
- Transport



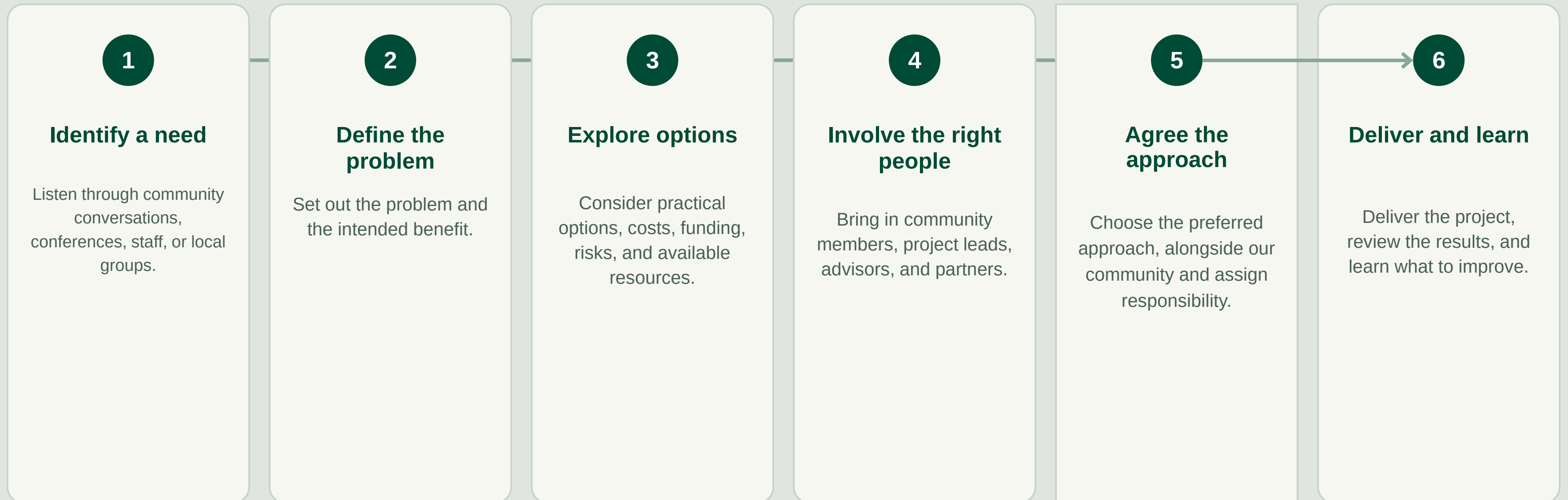
Developing the economic, social and cultural sustainability of our community by harnessing the quality of our resources, people and island environment.

Westray Development Trust assets timeline

when and what



How do we decide?



Höfn - Youth Centre

A safe haven for our young folk



Why: The need for a safe space for our youth was identified at Westray Conference 1998

What: Build a youth centre

Project Lead: Youth Sub Group, with WDT representative

Capital Funding: All external



Aims met

- To provide in the interests of social welfare, facilities for recreation and other leisure time occupation available to the public at large in Westray with a view to improving their conditions of life.
- To regenerate the community of Westray by the maintenance or improvement of the physical, social and economic infrastructure.

Westray Golf Course

A community facility brought to life

Why: Need identified by Westray Golf Club to develop the golf course on the island

What: Purchased Links farmland/golf course for development

Project Lead: WDT for purchase and Westray Golf Club for re-development

Capital Funding: For purchase external, re-development island fundraising and external funds



Aims met

- To provide in the interests of social welfare, facilities for recreation and other leisure time occupation available to the public at large in Westray with a view to improving their conditions of life.

900kW Community Turbine

Funds for Westray



Why: The WDT board recognised the need to have an income source

What: Explore turbine options

Project Lead: Turbine Sub Group evolved into Westray Renewable Energy Ltd, a trading subsidiary

Capital Funding: Lottery funding to purchase the land and a loan from Triodos to install the turbine.



Aims met

- To promote, establish, operate and/or support other schemes and projects of a charitable nature for the benefit of the community of Westray.

Westray Community Garden

A place to grow

Why: Need identified by WDT staff to reduce food miles

What: Purchase land for development, install Keedar units and vegetable plots

Project Lead: WDT Staff and Board

Capital Funding: All external



Aims Met

- To advance education and in particular to promote opportunities for learning for the benefit of the general public.
- To protect and/or preserve the environment for the benefit of the general public.
- To relieve poverty particularly among the residents of the island of Westray.

Housing

A place to live

Why: Need identified at Westray Conference by the Westray Community.

What: Identify housing need and develop

Project Lead: Housing Sub Group

Capital Funding: External and own funds

Aims Met

- To provide or assist in the provision of housing for people in necessitous circumstances within Westray.



The Old Hall

A place to gather

Why: Need identified at Westray Conference 2023 by the Westray Community.

Project Lead: Hall Sub Group, Operations Manager, Advisors

Capital Funding: External and own funds



Aims Met

- To regenerate the community of Westray by the maintenance or improvement of the physical, social and economic infrastructure.

The Next Stage for Westray Development Trust

1

Sustaining project
impact beyond the
funding period

→

2

Building local
ownership and
partnerships

→

3

Developing diverse
income and
resources

→

4

Reviewing progress
and learning for
future projects

Things we would do differently

1

Better Communication with the Community

Bring the community and project partners into the conversation through the whole project

2

Don't say no, say “can we look at it”

It might feel like a no but you owe it to your community to explore the options

3

Future Proofing

Planning for long-term project sustainability

4

Clarify ownership

Set project ownership and responsibilities at the outset.

5

Documentation

Keep it, file it, save it twice.

A COMMUNITY PERSPECTIVE

“There is no power for change greater than a community discovering what it cares about.”

“

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