Correspondence from Orkney Islands Council

Dear Rob Gibson MSP

Re RACCE visit to Rousay – Electrical Vehicle Charging Points at Ferry Terminals

Thank you for your query regarding Charging points for Electric Vehicles that the Rousay Egilsay and Wyre (REW) Development Trust indicated to you as part of your Committee’s visit in June 2015.

The Council’s Marine Transport and Engineering Service was approached by both the Rousay Community Council and REW Development Trust with a view to them placing a charge point at Tingwall (at their expense) for the main purpose of being used by REW residents. The Council’s Electric Vehicle (EV) Infrastructure Strategy (2014) identifies the need to establish an EV network across Orkney subject to grant funding. Tingwall is identified as part of this initiative.

The Council’s plans for Tingwall were initially put on hold in order to establish whether Scottish Government grant funding would be sufficient to pay for the charge point. If this was the case it would leave the Community Council and Development Trust’s money for other uses. Officers eventually found that Scottish Government’s Electric Vehicle charge point grant funding was insufficient to cover Tingwall. Therefore the Council’s Head of Marine Services, Transport and Engineering met with the REW Development Trust’s representative Michelle Koster approximately six weeks ago to discuss the way forward. She presented some detailed work thus far. The Council and REW development trust has discussed:

- An Exact location for the Charge point
- Land requirements including leases etc
- Land preparation
- Access to power (before or after Ferries Office metering)
- Conditions of use (REW only or all comers)
- Engineering aspects
- Funding (all via REW Dev Trust and grants via them from various sources).

Action is in hand to address the above and Council officers will be liaising with both the REW Development Trust and the Community Council in order to complete this action.

Yours sincerely

Alistair Buchan
Chief Executive