

GULBERWICK, QUARFF & CUNNINGSBURGH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Clerk: Mrs K Geddes

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Dear Professor Wilson,

On behalf of the Gulberwick, Quarff and Cunningsburgh Community Council, I am very happy to write in support of the Shetland Community Screening Project being developed through Viking Genes at the University of Edinburgh.

Our Community Council is well aware of the work Viking Genes has already carried out in Shetland and the clear evidence it has provided about the higher prevalence of certain inherited health risks within our population. The proposal to offer a community-wide screening programme feels both timely and important, and we see it as a positive, practical step towards earlier intervention, better health outcomes, and peace of mind for many individuals and families.

We particularly welcome the project's focus on prevention and informed choice, supported by established NHS care pathways. The potential to identify people at risk before illness develops, and to support them to take appropriate action, is something we believe would make a real difference within our communities. We also recognise the wider value of this work in contributing to research, education, and the future direction of public health policy in Scotland.

The level of local engagement and fundraising support already shown for the project speaks volumes about how strongly it resonates with people across Shetland. We feel this reflects a genuine appetite for giving people the option to understand and manage their health risks, while fully respecting individual choice.

Apologies for the delay in sending this response. Please note that the timing of this letter does not in any way reflect the strength of our support for the project. Our endorsement is wholehearted, and we are very pleased for this letter to be used in support of funding applications.

We wish the Shetland Community Screening Project every success and commend all those involved for the care and commitment that has clearly gone into its development. We have discussed the possibility of offering monetary support from our own small grants pot and have agreed to keep this as a preferred option should any funds remain once all applications have been considered. If there is any other way the Community Council can assist at a local level, we would be glad to do so.

Yours sincerely,

Pat Christie
GQC CC Chair