

# NORTHMAVEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Mr D Brown (Chair)  
Crogreen  
Ollaberry  
ZE2 9RT

NCDC Services  
NCDC Office  
Ollaberry ZE2 9RU  
Telephone: 01806 544222  
E-mail: northmavencc@gmail.com

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**Date:** 8<sup>th</sup> October 2025

Centre of Global Health Research - The Usher Institute  
The University of Edinburgh  
Usher Building, 5-7 Little France Road  
Edinburgh BioQuarter – Gate 3  
Edinburgh, EH16 4UX

**Re: Letter of Support**

Dear Dr Wilson,

On behalf of the Northmaven Community Council, we wish to express our strong support for the Viking Genes Shetland Community Screening Project.

We are greatly encouraged by the evidence your research team has provided, revealing a significantly higher prevalence of disease-causing genetic variants within Shetland's population, with conditions such as BRCA2-related cancers and heart rhythm disorders posing real risks to families in every part of our community. Offering free genetic screening to Shetland residents stands to save lives through early intervention and provides reassurance to many who may otherwise remain unaware of their health risks.

We believe the project's will make a profound difference to local health outcomes and overall wellbeing, particularly in our rural area. We are hopeful that further funding can be secured to realise the full ambition of this initiative.

We look forward to the benefits that will be delivered by the Viking Genes project, both in immediate health improvements for our residents and as an exemplar for rural preventative healthcare nationally.

Yours faithfully,

*Charlotte Anderson*

Charlotte Anderson  
Clerk, Northmaven Community Council