



## MINUTES

### Fisheries Local Action Group Meeting – 10am

Friday 16 March 2018

Held at:	Arden House Hotel, Kirkcudbright	
Attendees:	Alastair McNeill (AM) Chair Grant Course (GC) Harry Harbottle (HH) June Lochhead (JL)	Sean McGuire (SM) Debbie Parke (DP) Pam Taylor (PT) Jonathan Warren (JW)
Staff	Nicola Hill (NH) Rowan Lloyd (RL)	Jessie Mason (JM)
Apologies:	Caroline Graham-Brown (CGB)	

Meeting commenced at 10.00am

#### 1 Welcome

AM opened the meeting and welcomed all members. AM acknowledged the passing of John Tooth and noted that Stephen Hardy has stepped down from the FLAG. AM thanked both John and Stephen for the time and energy they contributed to the FLAG.

HH noted a conflict of interest with the Portpatrick Harbour Community Benefit Society Harbour resurfacing project and requested to be excused from the scoring process.

JW, JL, and AM noted a conflict of interest with the Solway Firth Partnership Fishing Faces Expression of Interest and requested to be excused from the scoring process if this project is developed into a full application.

PT noted a conflict of interest with the Stranraer Development Trust's Stranraer Oyster Festival's Local Seafood Celebration EOI and requested to be excused from the scoring process.

#### 2 Minutes of Meeting of 8 September 2017

Minutes of the meeting from 8 December 2017 were proposed by HH and seconded by SM, the minutes were therefore approved.

#### 3 FLAG Project Officer update

RL provided an update on:

- The EOI discussed at the December FLAG meeting.
- The current financial overview of the FLAG fund (please see in appendix)
- Future anticipated EOI to the FLAG

NH and JM joined the meeting at 10.15am

HH had previously expressed an interest in the Portpatrick Harbour Community Benefit Society: Harbour resurfacing

#### 4 Consideration of Full Applications

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**4.1 Portpatrick Harbour Community Benefit Society – Harbour resurfacing project application. Total project cost: £49,896.00, funding request to FLAG: £37,396.00, FLAG intervention rate: 75%, Match funding provider: SUEZ (£12,500.00)**

AM presented a synopsis of the application

Discussion took place –

RL noted that the total project cost had increased as the project had expanded to include the resurfacing of port which extends beyond the RNLI boat house/shop (subsequently the project now accounts for the resurfacing of the whole harbour). The FLAG acknowledged and welcomed this increase in scale of project.

The FLAG agreed with the applicant stating that the project would not proceed without FLAG funding.

GC queried as to whether the lowest quote for resurfacing had been chosen and noted that not all quotes were comparable – RL advised that when quotes from Gavin Lawrie surfacing and McHallum Builders are combined they offer the same service as the alternative quotes. RL also noted that due to management capacity of the applicant organisation and concerns regarding potential disruption to RNLI during resurfacing the applicants did not want to rely on two separate companies to deliver the resurfacing and felt it would be more efficient/quicker to rely upon only one company.

After discussion the group scored the application

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				TOTAL SCORE	30/33		
0 = Insufficient evidence provided	1 = Some evidence provided	2 = Good level of evidence provided	3 = Fully demonstrated by evidence provided				
<b>Strategic Fit:</b>							
1. To the EMFF Union Priority 4 ( <i>appendix 1</i> )				0	1	2	3
2. To the EMFF Community-Led Local Development objectives ( <i>appendix 2</i> )				0	1	2	3
3. To at least one of the LDS Themes ( <i>appendix 3</i> )				0	1	2	3
4. To the LDS priorities for inshore fisheries ( <i>appendix 3</i> )				0	1	2	3
<b>Eligibility:</b>							
5. Does this project conform to the EMFF funding criteria, i.e. has required documentation been submitted?				0	1	2	3
6. Has the applicant demonstrated that this project could not run without EMFF support?				0	1	2	3
7. Is the projects contribution to the objectives of the EMFF and the LDS proportionate to the funding being requested?				0	1	2	3
<b>Competency:</b>							
8. Are the project plans viable (considering the costs, timeframes and delivery mechanisms)?				0	1	2	3
9. Is the project likely to deliver an impact/benefit beyond the funding period?				0	1	2	3
10. Does the project applicant demonstrate adequate knowledge, experience and enthusiasm to deliver?				0	1	2	3
11. Does the project adequately identified and address anticipated project barriers or risks?				0	1	2	3

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Recommendation for funding:	APPROVE 6	REJECT 0	DEFER 0
Chair Signature: Alastair McNeill	Council Signature: David Gardiner		

Application group score: 30/33  
Number of Members APPROVING: 6  
Number of Members NOT APPROVING: 0

The decision was taken to **APPROVE** this project.

HH returned to the meeting

**4.2 Ian Clark, Borgue Lobsters project application. Total project cost: £50,034.00, funding request to FLAG: £25,017.00, FLAG intervention rate: 50%, Match funding provider: personal private funds (£25,017.00)**

**AM presented a synopsis of the application**

Discussion took place –

RL noted that the application had been prepared by a consultant, who had also produced a business plan. GC queried why this application applied for 50% when there was 100% available. RL confirmed that 100% would only be available if the applicant was not benefiting privately and concluded that as this is a private individual, the application can only attract 50% funding.

SM and JL noted that the capacity of the tanks were very low and queried if there was sufficient space to continue storing lobsters from local boats over the summer period. It was generally acknowledged by the FLAG that over the winter period there was sufficient capacity to store lobsters from the local boats listed in the application. RL highlighted that the applicant's business plan details an intention to expand the businesses storage capacity in future years and that land has already been purchased for future potential expansion. The FLAG acknowledged that this may be a pilot and, if it works, then may be added to. The FLAG would be keen to visit the operation when it was up and running to see it working. Definite benefit to the industry.

After discussions the group scored the application as follows

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				TOTAL SCORE	/33	
0 = Insufficient evidence provided	1 = Some evidence provided	2 = Good level of evidence provided	3 = Fully demonstrated by evidence provided			
<b>Strategic Fit:</b>						
1. To the EMFF Union Priority 4 ( <i>appendix 1</i> )				0	1	2 3
2. To the EMFF Community-Led Local Development objectives ( <i>appendix 2</i> )				0	1	2 3
3. To at least one of the LDS Themes ( <i>appendix 3</i> )				0	1	2 3
4. To the LDS priorities for inshore fisheries ( <i>appendix 3</i> )				0	1	2 3
<b>Eligibility:</b>						
5. Does this project conform to the EMFF funding criteria, i.e. has required documentation been submitted?				0	1	2 3
6. Has the applicant demonstrated that this project could not run without EMFF support?				0	1	2 3
7. Is the projects contribution to the objectives of the EMFF and the LDS proportionate to the funding being requested?				0	1	2 3
<b>Competency:</b>						
8. Are the project plans viable (considering the costs, timeframes and delivery mechanisms)?				0	1	2 3
9. Is the project likely to deliver an impact/benefit beyond the funding period?				0	1	2 3
10. Does the project applicant demonstrate adequate knowledge, experience and enthusiasm to deliver?				0	1	2 3
11. Does the project adequately identified and address anticipated project barriers or risks?				0	1	2 3

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Recommendation for funding:	APPROVE 7	REJECT 0	DEFER 0
Chair Signature: Alastair McNeill	Council Signature: David Gardiner		

Application group score: 32/33  
 Number of Members APPROVING: 7  
 Number of Members NOT APPROVING: 0

The decision was taken to **APPROVE** this project.

## 5 EOI's received

**Harry Hedley, Shrimp Wholesaler, applied for £7,891.00, 50% of project costs.**

AM read out the EOI. Discussion took place and the following points were raised:

The FLAG agreed that letters of support would need to be provided with the full application if this project was going to be considered for funding.

SM noted that the shrimp fishing season is limited to 3 months a year and queries what the tanks would be used for outwith the shrimp fishing season. RL noted that the tanks could not be used to store other forms of shellfish if this threatened the business of other local shellfish wholesalers.

PT noted that the Solway has a history of shrimp fishery – although this industry had declined in recent years. PT queried the business case for establishing a shrimp wholesale company in the Solway and requested that the applicant provide a business case.

JW noted that Solway shrimps fetch a premium on the market and previously SNH have been contacted by various enterprises wishing to fish shrimps in the Solway. RL noted that at a recent visit to Annan Harbour he noted there were several small shrimping boats.

PT also queried as to whether the applicant had considered cooking the shrimps and freezing them rather than storing them live.

The FLAG unanimously agreed that the application should be encouraged.

**Dumfries and Galloway College, Fish and Shellfish Cooking Master Classes, applied for £8,500, 100% of project costs.**

AM read out Dumfries and Galloway College's EOI. Discussion took place and the following points were raised.

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GC queried as to whether the college intended to charge participants for attending the course, and if so, would this be eligible for 100% funding? RL noted that clarity on this matter would need to be sought from the applicant and that if the college intended to charge participants, then they would be limited to 50% funding.

Several members of the FLAG queried as to whether participants attending the course would receive an accreditation?

The FLAG unanimously agreed that this is a good project and something they would like to see developed into a full application.

**Solway Firth Partnership, Fishing Faces – applied for £16,811.00 funding, 100% of project costs.**

AM read out Dumfries and Galloway College's EOI. Discussion took place and the following points were raised.

RL noted that EMFF criteria would not allow the applicant to use this publication to directly advertise any individual businesses. HH noted that photos of participants should not contain any company branding to ensure this project does not breach EMFF eligibility criteria.

GC queried if the booklets would be sold? JW advised that all SFP publications were free to the public.

The FLAG requested that a full application be developed for consideration.

**Stranraer Development Trust applied for support for the Stranraer Oyster Festival's Local Seafood Celebration, applied for £30,000.00, which is 100% of project funds.**

AM read out the Stranraer Development Trust's EOI. Discussion took place and the following points were raised.

PT noted that in last year's event local seafood was included by a) donating produce for the paella, b) inviting local seafood producers/processors to hold a stand in the food fair, c) provide details of how to contact local fishermen to make local sales. PT noted that this year's application aimed to focus more on celebrating the cultural history or local fishermen. PT also noted that the post project review of last year's event requested that the festival should focus more on providing fast food rather than raw produce as provided by producers/processors in the food hall last year. The FLAG unanimously agreed that a marquee focusing on fast food and exclusively using local seafood would be sufficiently different from the previous year's event.

GC queried as to whether caterers attending the event would be local, and whether they would be charged to hold a stall in the marquee. RL noted that it would not be eligible for the applicant to charge caterers a fee if they wished to receive 100% funding for the event and noted that he would request the applicants provide the terms of conditions caterers must accept if they wish to trade within the FLAG funded marquee.

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RL noted that direct advertising of individual businesses is not eligible for EMFF funding and measures would need to be taken by the applicant to ensure such advertisement was not incorporated into this project.

JL questioned if the festival has considered purchasing facilities to support the continued sustainability of the event eg cooking demonstration facilities, cold chill displays, and other such appliances. The FLAG unanimously agreed with this point and RL noted that he would feed this point back to the applicant.

JW queried the proposed long-term use of the graphics and general display information generated as a result of this project?

The FLAG requested that a full application be brought forward for consideration.

**Kirkcudbright Scallop Festival has applied for £40,000.00, which is 80% of project costs.**

AM read out the Kirkcudbright Scallop Festivals EOI. Discussion took place and the following points were raised.

The FLAG queried who will act as the lead applicant for the festival. The FLAG agreed that in order for the festival to truly celebrate and represent the local scallop industry the event must contain representation from the local scallop processing factory, West Coast Sea Products and local fisherman Tony Findlay.

PT noted that as scallop fishing is an environmentally sensitive topic, the applicants should include someone with expert knowledge on the topic of scallop fishing into the event organising team to address any complaints the festival may receive regarding the environmental impact of scallop fishing.

SM noted that the applicants should be encouraged to contact Deeside Marine and invite them to attend the event (Deeside Marine develop the world's most environmentally friendly scallop trawling gear).

SM noted that the festival will currently be run during the scallop fishing season and as a result it is likely there will be no boats on display in the harbour, it was suggested that the festival be held at Easter in future years as the boats would be at home then. The Irish Sea is closed for scallop dredging from 31 May to 1 November every year so the boats are away all summer. The FLAG unanimously agreed.

The FLAG requested this project be developed into a full application for consideration.

**Dumfries and Galloway College applied for support of a Maritime and Fishing Development Post, requesting £40,000.00, being 100% of project costs.**

AM read out the Dumfries and Galloway Colleges EOI. Discussion took place and the following points were raised.

PT and DP queried whether the FLAG should be funding the college's curriculum development. RL noted that general running costs are not eligible for EMFF funding. The FLAG unanimously agreed that the college Dumfries and Galloway LEADER Programme, Kirkbank House, English Street, Dumfries, DG1 2HS, Scotland

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would have to demonstrate that the project is above and beyond what they would usually undertake when considering the development of a new course.

JL queried whether the course could develop into a viable offering, an HNC/HND?

PT requested that the applicant provide further clarity as to the proposed outcomes of the project.

The FLAG requested that a full application be brought forward for consideration.

**Galloway Fisheries Trust applied for funding of a Galloway Rivers Salmon Habitat Enhancement Officer, they applied for £65,100, which is 100% of the project costs.**

AM read the Galloway Fisheries Trust EOI. Discussion took place and the following points were raised.

DP noted that this project looked to deliver an activity which was very similar to what she considered to be the core business of GFT. RL noted that core business running costs are not eligible for EMFF funding. The FLAG unanimously agreed that the outcomes of the project need to be clarified and the applicant must demonstrate that this project is notably different from their core business activities.

JW queried as to whether this project could be undertaken by a graduate internship?

The FLAG requested RL liaise with the applicant and encourage them to demonstrate this project is not replicating core business activities. If this can be shown the applicant should submit a full application for consideration.

**Annan Harbour Action Group applied for funds for the project Preparing Annan Harbour for the next 200 years, they requested funding of £70,000.00, which is 100% of project costs.**

AM read out Annan Harbour Action Group's EOI. Discussion took place and the following points were raised.

The FLAG queried whether EMFF funding could be used to purchase legal representation. RL noted that the guidance did not stipulate that funding could not be used for this activity – although he agreed to raise this query with Marine Scotland.

AM queried as to whether the Council possess the power to declare the current Trust moribund.

GC queried as to whether it would be feasible/ quicker to resurrect the current Trust with members from Annan Harbour Action Group than replace it.

HH requested the applicant provide a timeframe for the delivery of this project and queried whether the project would end prior to March 2020. RL noted that all projects must end prior to March 2020.

SM noted that dredging of Annan Harbour was carried out in a previous FLAG project and queried if a revision order required to allow Annan Harbour Action Group to carry out the infrastructure improvements?

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RL noted that the general running costs are not eligible for EMFF funding, and that the applicant would need to clearly demonstrate that dredging out an aspect of the harbour would not be considered a general running cost.

The FLAG requested RL to resolve the legal issue prior to requesting the applicant to submit a full application for consideration.

**Loch Ryan Marine Training applied for funding of £112,000.00 which is 100% of the project costs.**

AM read out the Loch Ryan Marine Training EOI. Discussion took place and the following points were raised.

The FLAG unanimously noted that a feasibility survey for a similar project was currently being developed by Dumfries and Galloway College. The FLAG noted that it would not be prudent of the FLAG to consider sponsoring such a project prior to receiving the results of the college's feasibility study.

JL also queried the eligibility of purchasing a boat as part of this project. RL noted that this was a rib and not a fishing boat, therefore, would be eligible for EMFF funding.

The FLAG also unanimously queried if the project would be eligible to receive up to 100% funding as it could contain a financial benefit to the applicant. RL noted that the applicant claimed to be a not for profit organisation. The FLAG agreed that RL should request evidence from the applicant to justify that they are registered as a not for profit organisation and provide information regarding the governance of the organisation.

The FLAG agreed the applicant should be encouraged not to progress this project prior to receiving the outcome from the college feasibility project.

**The Port William Inshore Rescue Service applied for funding for Building Rejuvenation and Expansion, requesting £296,000.00, which is 100% of project costs.**

AM read out the Port William Inshore Rescue Service EOI. Discussion took place and the following points were raised.

The FLAG agreed this was a good project but recognised that the amount of funding being sought was almost equivalent to the remaining FLAG budget. RL noted that funding from public bodies could not be used to match the EMFF programme.

GC queried the link to the fishery sector in proportion to the quantity of funding requested. The FLAG acknowledged that although there was a link to the fishing sector based on the amount of funding requested, the link may not be sufficient to attract FLAG funding.

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SM pointed out that the drawing which had been supplied showed a set of steps where there was a store on Council ground.

The FLAG requested a full application be submitted, although RL was requested to encourage the applicant to consider other potential private match funders and also the possibility of applying to the LEADER fund.

**6. AOCB** – JW confirmed that he is not involved in the details of any licences which are processed, this is in particular respect of previous applications which have been submitted recently by the Galloway Fisheries Trust.

**7. Cockle subgroup update**

RL provided a verbal update on the cockle re-layering project.

Meeting closed at 1.00pm.

Date and time of next meeting 10.00am on 15 June 2018, Arden House Hotel, Kirkcudbright.

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