



Kirkbank House, English Street, DUMFRIES
Dumfries and Galloway, DG1 2HS
Tel: 01387 260028 Web: www.dgleader.co.uk

MINUTES

Local Action Group – LEADER Group Meeting

Wednesday 14 March 2018, 10.00

Held at The Holiday Inn, Dumfries

Present	Harry Harbottle (HH) (I) Teresa Dougall (TD) (I) Sharon Glendinning (SG) (I) McNabb Laurie (ML) (P) Mairi Telford-Jammeh (MT) (I)	Juliette Cooke (JC) (P) Tony Fitzpatrick (TF) (I) Anna Johnson (AJ) (P) Clair McFarlan (CM) (I) Rob Wells (RW) (I)
Leader Staff	Nicola Hill (NH) Ellen Grant (EG)	Lewis Boddy (LB) Jessie Mason (JM)
Apologies	Gill Dykes (GD) (I) Judith Johnson (JJ) (I) Jenny Wilson (JW) (I)	Daniel Hird (DH) (P) Eva Milroy (EM) (I)

Meeting commenced at 10.03am

1 Welcome and Apologies

1.1 Chair Harry Harbottle opened the first meeting of the LEADER Group and welcomed all attendees. He asked for confirmation of apologies. JM advised, see list above. As not everyone had been able to attend the introductory meeting set up previously, the Chair asked for all Members to introduce themselves in a round table introduction.

1.2 Declaration of interest – TF and ML registered their interest in item R101, Galloway Glens Biosphere Experience and ML also registered his interest in the C224, Crossmichael Community Heritage and Living History Project.

2 Minutes of Meetings

2.1 Communities 6 December 2017 – The project officer updated the meeting with regard to decision in principle from December's meeting – C180 Douglas Park Redevelopment – although the decision was agreed in principle in December the offer has now been withdrawn as it was discovered that Sports Scotland had specified that their funding could only be used for Capital, not revenue. A letter confirming the withdrawal of the LEADER grant will be sent in the next week or so. It should be noted that we will work with the organisation to assist them to reapply and hopefully their application will come back to the table in June. LEADER funding could still be accessible, but will need rework.

The Year of the Young People 2018 and Barhill Community Woodland had received confirmation of their match funding and both projects were now live.

NH highlighted further that the programme of YOYP 2018 was not fully funded by LEADER and members should not be alarmed if they see events being publicised which do not appear to be branded with the necessary LEADER logos etc. The LEADER office is aware of the events which we are sponsoring and will keep a close eye on this.

The minutes were proposed by MTJ and seconded by RW.

2.2 Rural Enterprise Group Meeting –minutes for the meeting held on 13 December 2017.
Proposed by SG and Seconded by TD.

3 Consideration of Deferred Application from December meeting
Members were advised that all project decisions are based on Scottish Government issued Guidance version 5.0.

R104 – Rusko Studio – Total eligible expenditure of £59,937, with a grant of £29,937 requested (49.94744482%) – match funding has been confirmed. The Project was deferred from previous round to evidence

- Local stakeholder engagement
- Provide a marketing strategy on resubmission
- Provide evidence of wider community benefit.

EG fed back to the meeting that the applicant had addressed the feedback and provided information to support this as well as producing a marketing strategy.

RW advised he was unable to score the application as he had misunderstood the Group were rescoring the application, with some Members agreeing. The Chair asked for a show of hands to ensure the Group remained quorate for scoring the application. Show of hands – 7 were available to score so discussion continued.

The group originally felt there had been a lack of stakeholder engagement previously but the applicant had confirmed who they had contacted and what agreements had tentatively been put in place ie local hotels were keen to offer accommodation as and when required. The Group agreed that the applicant had addressed the points of deferral sufficiently.

After discussion, the group scored the application.

Scoring

1	Does the project embody originality, embrace experimentation or demonstrate innovation?	3
2	Does the project applicant demonstrate adequate knowledge, experience and enthusiasm to deliver?	3
3	Does the project demonstrate clear linkages to other related local activities or strategies?	2
4	Does the project demonstrate evidence of community, market or business need/demand?	3
5	Does the project demonstrate value for money?	2
6	Does the project clearly demonstrate additionality?	3
7	Does the project adequately recognise and address participation barriers or risks?	2
8	Does the project clearly tackle at least one of the LDS themes: a. Economy b. Land, Coast and Marine Environments c. Sustainable Settlements	3
9	Does the project clearly demonstrate what will be achieved by the project – Outcomes/Indicators/Target Groups?	2



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10 Are you happy that this project fits comfortably within the LEADER Local Development Strategy (LDS)?	Yes
TOTAL SCORE	23

Number of Members **APPROVING**: 5
 Number of Members **NOT APPROVING**: 1
 Number of Members **DEFERRING**: 0
 Number of Members **ABSTAINING**: 3 as they had not read the application and project plan

The decision was taken to **APPROVE** the application with suggestions for connections/contacts to be made with Kirkcudbright Academy who run an advanced Higher in Art and they could help to build the students portfolio. Connection should also be made with Dumfries and Galloway College to see if there are any students which could be contacted in the Creative Industries Courses.

4 Consideration of Applications

McNabb Laurie had previously registered his interest in this project and left the room.

4.1 C224 – Crossmichael Community Heritage and Living History Project

LB gave an overview of the project to the meeting. Total eligible expenditure £67,729, with a LEADER grant requested of £33,729.00, giving an intervention rate of 49.79993799%. Match funding has been confirmed from the Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership. There are no statutory requirements associated with the project.

The group liked the project, commenting on how well the application was written.. There was a consensus amongst the group that Crossmichael Community Council had integrated the local community well into the project and that the delivery staff seem to know what they are doing. Good to see targets already being considered and how they can capture the relative information.

It was commented that the exit strategy could be more robust, as they look as if continuation will rely on donations for future.

The group agreed that good innovative thinking was present in the project and lots of other communities could take the ideas forward for themselves to do something similar. Sounds as if it was historically driven, could do with including contemporary aspects too. Positive message of working with other groups. It is a very good starting point, they are building pride in their heritage and can gain confidence to take it forward.

SG made a query about the consultancy fees around the technology based cost within the budget LB confirmed that the group required a consultant to help maintain the technological elements of the project such as the iPad displays and the digital tapestry as they did not feel confident in themselves to do such a task.

After discussion, the group scored the application.

Scoring

1	Does the project embody originality, embrace experimentation or demonstrate innovation?	3
2	Does the project applicant demonstrate adequate knowledge, experience and enthusiasm to deliver?	4
3	Does the project demonstrate clear linkages to other related local activities or strategies?	3
4	Does the project demonstrate evidence of community, market or business need/demand?	4
5	Does the project demonstrate value for money?	3
6	Does the project clearly demonstrate additionality?	3
7	Does the project adequately recognise and address participation barriers or risks?	2
8	Does the project clearly tackle at least one of the LDS themes: a. Economy b. Land, Coast and Marine Environments c. Sustainable Settlements	3
9	Does the project clearly demonstrate what will be achieved by the project – Outcomes/Indicators/Target Groups?	3
10	Are you happy that this project fits comfortably within the LEADER Local Development Strategy (LDS)?	Yes
TOTAL SCORE		28

Number of Members **APPROVING**: 8

Number of Members **NOT APPROVING**: 0

Number of Members **DEFERRING**: 0

Suggestions for connections/contacts. It was suggested that contact be made with the Ewart Library as there is a repository for oral recordings at the library. Also contact should be made through the library to contact Scottish & Celtic studies at Edinburgh University.

McNabb Laurie returned to the meeting.

4.2 C227 – Norway Cooperation Project

The project officer gave the meeting an overview of the project. This is a cooperation project, using the LEADER development fund. The applicant organisation, Sleeping Giants, have made an application to utilise the LEADER development grant, granting 100% funding for the project. The total eligible expenditure of £5,000 would be 100% funded. The grant should allow development of a larger project which will hopefully come to the LEADER group meeting in June.

SG exclaimed that seemed to be a bit of confusion about reference to the exit strategy in the document, with a reference being made to a Training Academy. NH clarified that the level of detail in the development of the project is sometimes confusing, and the training academy will be part of the final project, being proposed for June. It was suggested that there is work currently being undertaken in the region which should be considered in the development of the project. Connections should be made with SG to fully understand context. The group came to the consensus that Sleeping Giants has a very good history of making connections, they know are competent and working well/connect with hard to reach groups.

After discussion, the meeting scored the application.

Scoring

1	Does the project embody originality, embrace experimentation or demonstrate innovation?	4
2	Does the project applicant demonstrate adequate knowledge, experience and enthusiasm to deliver?	4
3	Does the project demonstrate clear linkages to other related local activities or strategies?	3
4	Does the project demonstrate evidence of community, market or business need/demand?	3
5	Does the project demonstrate value for money?	3
6	Does the project clearly demonstrate additionality?	4
7	Does the project adequately recognise and address participation barriers or risks?	3
8	Does the project clearly tackle at least one of the LDS themes: a. Economy b. Land, Coast and Marine Environments c. Sustainable Settlements	4
9	Does the project clearly demonstrate what will be achieved by the project – Outcomes/Indicators/Target Groups?	3
10	Are you happy that this project fits comfortably within the LEADER Local Development Strategy (LDS)?	Yes
TOTAL SCORE		31

Number of Members **APPROVING**: 9

Number of Members **NOT APPROVING**: 0

Number of Members **DEFERRING**: 0

Suggestions for connections/contacts. It was noted that reference had been made to 5 Members and a LAG Member be included in travel. NH advised the meeting that any costs attributable to travel of a LAG member would be met by LEADER, and not be part of the project costs. Contact should be made with Sharon Glendinning to discuss the concept of a skills academy and centre of excellence mentioned in the project plan.

4.3 R101 – Galloway Glens Biosphere Experience

McNabb Laurie and Tony Fitzpatrick had previously registered their interest in this project and left the room.

The project officer advised the Group of the details of the project. The applicant organisation of Southern Upland Partnership has made an application “Galloway Glens Biosphere Experience”, seeking £73,687, requesting £36,843 of a grant from LEADER, which equates to 49.99932145%. Match funding has been confirmed by Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership. Match funding is still to be confirmed by the Stewartry Area Committee, so therefore if the Group is of a mind to support the project, it can only be a decision in Principle. There are no statutory requirements applicable.

The Group felt the idea of the project was good and had been being talked about locally for some time; facilitating businesses to get ideas to take forward although the Group felt the application was a bit lacking in detail of how this is to be done. The Group were advised that the role of the officer they are planning on appointing was to take this forward and flesh out the ideas with local businesses. The exit strategy was questioned; it was hoped that once the partnerships had been formed and worked well that they would continue to do so post funding period. It was felt that there was a higher potential for success with connections in the wider Galloway Glens community. The Group could see the benefit of the expansion of skills for local people. The Group felt that for the project to be successful it is imperative the right person is recruited, but felt comfortable the Applicant organisation has the means to do so.

The Group felt that Southern Upland Partnership has a good record of strong delivery of projects, this experience gave the Group further confidence in the project. The Members noted that there is a project officer already undertaking educational work and piloting ideas. The Crichton Carbon Centre officer works across both organisations; looking at linkages with Peatlands and recognise the need and potential of upskilling – Members felt this could be a could connection/contact

After discussion, the meeting scored the application.

Scoring

1	Does the project embody originality, embrace experimentation or demonstrate innovation?	3
2	Does the project applicant demonstrate adequate knowledge, experience and enthusiasm to deliver?	3
3	Does the project demonstrate clear linkages to other related local activities or strategies?	3
4	Does the project demonstrate evidence of community, market or business need/demand?	3
5	Does the project demonstrate value for money?	3
6	Does the project clearly demonstrate additionality?	3
7	Does the project adequately recognise and address participation barriers or risks?	2
8	Does the project clearly tackle at least one of the LDS themes: a. Economy b. Land, Coast and Marine Environments c. Sustainable Settlements	4
9	Does the project clearly demonstrate what will be achieved by the project – Outcomes/Indicators/Target Groups?	3
10	Are you happy that this project fits comfortably within the LEADER Local Development Strategy (LDS)?	Yes
TOTAL SCORE		27

Number of Members **APPROVING in PRINCIPLE**: 7

Number of Members **NOT APPROVING**: 0

Number of Members **DEFERRING**: 0



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Suggestions for connections/contacts. Wider connections for traditional skills, Crichton Carbon Centre. Work with other partners and Biosphere Groups throughout Europe.

McNabb Laurie and Tony Fitzpatrick returned to the meeting.

4.4 – R116 – Dark Art Gin Distillery.

The Dark Art Gin Ltd have made an application for the total eligible expenditure of £223,338.80, with a grant requested of £111,588.80, being 49.95272816%. If the group are of a mind to support this project, the decision will only be able to be deferred for electronic approval or come back to the next meeting as the match funding is still to be confirmed from the bank in writing and they are also awaiting confirmation of Planning Permission for the Johnstone School.

MTJ queried if there would be any issues associated with the site from a planning permission perspective. The Group were assured this would be assessed when Planning Permission was made available. A number of recipes were discussed in the application, clarification should be sought as there were contradicting numbers. Concerns were voiced as there was no master distiller at the outset of the project discussed within the application. Members asked if Business Gateway should be contacted for their assessment of business viability.

Members felt positive regarding the Marketing element of the project, as the brand will make connections with the Dark Skies Park in the area and well as the Arts sector in Kirkcudbright, and it was felt with further clarification this could be a sound investment opportunity for LEADER funds. Some members felt it could add additional product into the growing sector of food and drink experiences across the region, which has exceptional food and drink producers; so this will fit well with the forthcoming food and drink tourism strategy.

Reference was made in the application to working with artists; LAG members felt there could be a stronger link and there should be evidence of this made available along with a marketing strategy. Members felt the connections looked to be well made in marketing and they seem well “plugged in” with good connections throughout Scotland. Members felt that the applicant had identified a number of contacts out with the area for selling produce

Members were comfortable that Feedback could be given to the applicant, giving them an opportunity to address all concerns.

After discussion, the meeting scored the application.

Scoring

1	Does the project embody originality, embrace experimentation or demonstrate innovation?	2
2	Does the project applicant demonstrate adequate knowledge, experience and enthusiasm to deliver?	3
3	Does the project demonstrate clear linkages to other related local activities or strategies?	3
4	Does the project demonstrate evidence of community, market or business need/demand?	2

5	Does the project demonstrate value for money?	2
6	Does the project clearly demonstrate additionality?	3
7	Does the project adequately recognise and address participation barriers or risks?	3
8	Does the project clearly tackle at least one of the LDS themes: a. Economy b. Land, Coast and Marine Environments c. Sustainable Settlements	4
9	Does the project clearly demonstrate what will be achieved by the project – Outcomes/Indicators/Target Groups?	3
10	Are you happy that this project fits comfortably within the LEADER Local Development Strategy (LDS)?	Yes
TOTAL SCORE		25

Number of Members **APPROVING**: 0

Number of Members **NOT APPROVING**: 3

Number of Members **DEFERRING**: 6

Deferred to be considered again at June meeting.

Reasons for Deferral:

- Stronger links with the 'Art' Theme and potential Artists.
- Evidence of wider business support
- Marketing Strategy to be included with Application
- Further information regarding recipes
- Clarification if other funds had been sought
- Evidence of Planning Permission

4.5 – R134 the Ethical Dairy

The project officer appraised the Group of the project details, the Applicant Organisation, Finlays Farm Ltd submitted an application for The Ethical Dairy, total eligible expenditure of £110,000, with a grant of £55,000 requested, 50.00000000%.

The group thought this was a tremendous, well written application with superb innovation. It was clarified that there was no other funding available for this as the FPMC monies have been highlighted for the purchase of the cheese making equipment. There was intimation of a procurement process which had taken place but the Group were assured that procurement has to be undertaken by all applicants as part of the LEADER application process.

The Group felt confident that the applicant organisation could successfully deliver this project and were enthused by the organisation's ground breaking processes in Dairy Farming. It was felt that this project could heighten D&G's profile in both the food & drink sector as well as the agricultural sector.

After discussions the group scored the application.

Scoring

1	Does the project embody originality, embrace experimentation or demonstrate innovation?	4
2	Does the project applicant demonstrate adequate knowledge, experience and enthusiasm to deliver?	4
3	Does the project demonstrate clear linkages to other related local activities or strategies?	4
4	Does the project demonstrate evidence of community, market or business need/demand?	4
5	Does the project demonstrate value for money?	3
6	Does the project clearly demonstrate additionality?	3
7	Does the project adequately recognise and address participation barriers or risks?	3
8	Does the project clearly tackle at least one of the LDS themes: a. Economy b. Land, Coast and Marine Environments c. Sustainable Settlements	4
9	Does the project clearly demonstrate what will be achieved by the project – Outcomes/Indicators/Target Groups?	3
10	Are you happy that this project fits comfortably within the LEADER Local Development Strategy (LDS)?	Yes
TOTAL SCORE		32

Number of Members **APPROVING in Principle**: 9

Number of Members **NOT APPROVING**: 0

Number of Members **DEFERRING**: 0

5 AOCB - Update on Expressions of Interest

The Team have experienced issues with regards to receiving new EOIs but the Group were assured this was being dealt with. Once the problem is resolved and EOIs received, the project officers will circulate any which feel they need feedback on.

Cooperation Project – Making a Living from Local Food

The group were given copies of a cooperation project which has recently been forwarded to a number of LEADER groups in Scotland. The group were asked if they were keen for D&G to become part of it or at least find out more information. Consensus of opinion was that there was merit in looking further at the project and taking a decision when more information was made available, a meeting can be arranged to discuss.

Update – Day of the Region

The period for signing up for this year's Day of the Region has just closed and we have approximately 6 communities signed up. Some previous participants, Annan and Newton Stewart; and some new, Palnackie and Scottish Youth Theatre, who anticipate putting event on each weekend in a different area of the region. LGBT+ youth are hoping to link with the wider Pride event. Lochmaben makes a return after a short break. Further details will be made available in the LEADER Spring Staff Report.



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Update - Amaze Me LEADER

The consultants have now been appointed and we have already had a number of meetings. They are making great headway and have a huge amount of detail already available. The Programme and recruitment is currently being pulled together. The group were asked when it came to recruitment, can all members please cascade the information throughout their networks.

The meeting was brought to a close by the Chair at 12.30pm. The members were advised that lunch was available and he thanked them for their input. The next meeting will be held on 13 June – apologies were received from HH and TF due to long standing appointments.

ML, congratulated the Chair on his first successfully completed LAG meeting.

Date of next meeting is 13 June 2018, at 10.00am The Holiday Inn, Dumfries.

DRAFT