



Kirkbank House, English Street, DUMFRIES  
Dumfries and Galloway, DG1 2HS  
Tel: 01387 260028 Web: [www.dgleader.co.uk](http://www.dgleader.co.uk)

## MINUTES

### Local Action Group – LEADER Group Meeting

Wednesday 13 June 2018, 10.00

Held at The Holiday Inn, Dumfries

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

Meeting commenced at 10.03am

## 1 Welcome and Apologies

1.1 PR opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. He asked for confirmation of apologies. JM advised, see list above. He asked for an update on membership of the group. NH advised there were no changes to the membership but DR was in attendance instead of DH.

1.2 Declaration of interest –

ML - 07/P00091 Loch Ken Passiv Pod and 07/P00077 Old Smiddy Heritage Centre

TD – 07/P00084 Health & Wellbeing in the Farming Community

JJ – Cooperation Development – Pulling the Threads Together

## 2 Minutes of Meetings

### 2.1 LEADER Group meeting 14 March 2018 –

EG noted that Galloway Glens Biosphere Experience was approved in principal at the previous meeting, however, due to match funding issues the LAG took the decision to defer the project for an electronic decision. **The project was APPROVED electronically on 12/06/18.**

EG also noted that ‘Dark Art Gin’ Distillery was deferred at the last meeting and has now returned for a decision. EG will go into further detail when the LAG are considering the Application.

The minutes were proposed by CM and seconded by TD.

There were no matters arising which were not on the agenda.

## 3 Consideration of Deferred Application from March meeting

**Members were advised that all project decisions are based on Scottish Government issued Guidance version 5.0.**



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**Total eligible expenditure of £223,388.80, with a grant of £111,588.80 requested (49.9527816%)**  
**07/P00075 Dark Art Gin** – Dark Art Gin (“DAG”) is a premium gin company based in Kirkcudbright. It will have a distilling capability and a Visitor Centre & Shop which all together will be known as Dark Art Distillery. The Distillery will be the heart of the business and will allow for tours and direct sales to visitors. This will be supplemented by direct sales via a fully inter-active website, social media activity and a salesforce.

EG noted the reasons for deferral and updated the Members as to how each point had been addressed by the applicant.

Discussion was opened up to the group. A query was raised by Members regarding reference to employing a Sales Assistant but no money was identifiable in the application budget. NH confirmed LEADER was only being approached for capital purchases at this time.

Members were happy to see that the applicant had addressed all the points of deferral and was comfortable this was done well. Many LAG members agreed. They felt it was good to see the level of business support, however, a concern was raised around cashflow and future sustainability. Although this point was taken, many LAG members took comfort that the applicant had a high level of support from Business Gateway, thus showing Business Gateway’s belief in the financial projections. LAG members agreed that this project is part of a bigger project based in the Johnstone School, and with the recent opening of the Kirkcudbright Galleries it would be another solid offering for Kirkcudbright.

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?	3
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?	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	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		26



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Number of Members **APPROVING**: 9  
Number of Members **NOT APPROVING**: 0  
Number of Members **DEFERRING**: 0

The decision was taken to **APPROVE** the application with suggestions for connections/contacts to be continued with Business Gateway and DG Food and Drink.

#### **4 Consideration of Applications**

##### **Rural Enterprise**

Due to the level of grants being requested within the Rural Enterprise stream, the fund was oversubscribed, therefore, NH asked members to discuss the three applications and then place them in order of preference. The Group were advised that programme operating costs have been reviewed and NH confirmed there was up to £100,000 in the operation costs budget available to be moved over into project funding. LAG Members were advised, however, that even with the extra funds, not all applications could be fully supported.

##### **Rural Enterprise**

#### **4.1 07/P00087 – Galloway Modular Construction, total eligible expenditure £20,000, grant request of £10,000, being 50%. All match funding was confirmed as being in place.**

Galloway Modular Construction look to establish a complete shipping container conversion unit. Container conversion is not a new concept, however, having an assembly line style unit ready to take a single use container in one end and present a custom conversion out the other has not yet been done. With help from LEADER they are going to produce two prototype conversions.

The group discussed the application and thought it was both risky and speculative, but many Members were encouraged to see that the applicants were young people looking to return to the area, which is an important element for LEADER. Members also felt there was a good level of support. Members felt the project was exciting and could do a lot for the little amount of funds being sought, therefore could see the value for money. Members saw this as a flexible way to supply modular living without changing the appearance of towns and villages, and could see a strong opportunity to connect with the Crichton Care Campus.

SG joined the meeting at 10.50am

There were some who had reservations, with the location, more limited accessibility than the original location mentioned at draft stage of just off the M74. A query was also raised around permanency, however, it was noted that this project was a pilot and if approved would give the applicants scope to move location once the LEADER project finished. With all points taken into consideration, many LAG Members could see merit in funding this pilot project and could see the potential legacy for both the applicants and Dumfries and Galloway.

#### **4.2 AgriBI – 07/P00088, AgriBI project, total eligible expenditure of £128,725, looking for funding of £64,362.50 (50%) – all match funding was confirmed to be in place.**



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Owen Farm Services are looking for LEADER funding to help develop a piece of software/web portal that enables farms to manage their business in one place. Information gathering, processing, and reporting will be the fundamental mechanics of the programme. The software is innovative as no other product on the market that aims to carry out all functions on all farms. Current software available centres on one sector e.g. dairy, beef, sheep, arable, or legislation and not business efficiencies. The proposal is also to include welfare not only of stock but farmer wellbeing along with links to access further support.

The application was not well understood, it was thought other options were available already. It was noted there was no letter of support from NFU. Although benchmarking data is always helpful, it was thought that the new GDPR which has just recently been updated, would not allow the use of personal information of the quantity and quality required to carry out the research. It was noted that many small farmers don't necessarily have large capacity and therefore will not be looking for this breadth of information. LAG Members questioned the added value and although felt the principle was sound, did not feel it added enough to what is already on the market. LAG Members were all in strong agreement that with Brexit on the horizon, nobody actually knows what the new policies will look like and therefore was too speculative at the moment.

On first reading it looked like a one stop shop, but after hearing discussions and what was available it appeared less holistic. Farmers are not likely to pay for a service to be monitored.

11.03 ML left the meeting after declaring an interest previously in the Loch ken Passiv Pod Project

**4.3 The Galloway Activity Centre's Loch Ken Passiv Pod Project – total eligible expenditure of £500,000, requesting a grant of £100,000 (20%) – planning permission was not in place (the applicant was under the impression that planning permission would be covered by a non-material variation of planning permission – this has not yet been confirmed by Dumfries and Galloway Council Planning Department)**

The project will create a brand new luxury off-grid, passiv building that will attract a new and different market to Loch Ken and the area. This building will provide innovative technology in this market sector, which will attract some visitors looking to experience the technology and others looking for a piece of luxury amidst a wilderness, with privacy, peace and perfection.

This building will not only address strategic issues by creating a new, high end luxury service, a new attraction for the region, job creation and encourage new visitors not currently visiting the GAC and Loch Ken area. It will be entirely Passiv (the first of its kind in the UK) – this Passiv Pod will be entirely unique.

The Group discussed the application. A number of members wondered about the size of the pod and thought it was several pods, EG confirmed it was one pod and LARCs was opened up to show an artist impression. LAG Members were encouraged that Scottish Enterprise have been working with GAC and are very supportive and felt that this project is the next logical step in growing the business. Members felt it was a good sound proposal, if not scale, they already do marriages and this allows a further offering. Members raised the fact that the project was very expensive, however, were encouraged by large private investment proposed.

With further regards to the public/private funding, Members felt this is value for money, and are encouraged by the applicant investing the majority of the funds with only a 20% LEADER request. Members feel Passiv credentials are good to promote with the potential to open up another area of



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tourists, giving visitors another reason to visit D&G. Members also feel GAC have a good track record in delivering business proposals.

LAG Members were concerned with regards to planning permission not being in place. GAC are looking to join the Scottish Enterprise Account Management criterion if planning goes ahead, there are very few businesses in Dumfries and Galloway able to achieve this status and LAG Members were encouraged by this. It was questioned what would happen if the planning permission does not come through, with NH advising the money would remain in operating costs until the next LAG meeting in September.

11.20am, ML re-joined the meeting.

Members were requested to score the applications in preference.

Applications were put in order of preference and were scored in the following order, all supporting paperwork for the scoring can be found on LARCs,

- 1 Loch Ken Passiv Pod
- 2 Galloway Modular Construction
- 3 AgriBI

Scoring of the projects followed

**Scoring – 4.3 Galloway Activity Centre – Loch Ken Passiv Pod**

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?	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?	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	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**: 9



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Number of Members **NOT APPROVING**: 0

Number of Members **DEFERRING**: 0

A decision in PRINCIPLE was made by the Group, awaiting confirmation of Planning Permission.

**Scoring – 4.1 Galloway Modular Construction**

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?	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?	2
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	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
<b>TOTAL SCORE</b>		<b>26</b>

Number of Members **APPROVING**: 8

Number of Members **NOT APPROVING**: 2

Number of Members **DEFERRING**: 0

Suggestions for connections/contacts. It was suggested that contact be made with Carbon Dynamics, Invergordon, Energy Savings Trust, Care in the Campus at the Crichton and Housing Associations.

NH confirmed that RE is now fully committed – dependent of on GAC securing appropriate planning permission.

**Scoring – 4.2 AgriBI**

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?	2

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?	2
5	Does the project demonstrate value for money?	2
6	Does the project clearly demonstrate additionality?	2
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	2
9	Does the project clearly demonstrate what will be achieved by the project – Outcomes/Indicators/Target Groups?	2
10	Are you happy that this project fits comfortably within the LEADER Local Development Strategy (LDS)?	Yes
<b>TOTAL SCORE</b>		<b>18</b>

Number of Members **APPROVING**: 1

Number of Members **NOT APPROVING**: 9

Number of Members **DEFERRING**: 0

Suggestions for connections/contacts. It was suggested that contact be made with Co-Innovate, Higher Education Groups, SRUC and to possibly access Innovation Funds, the Scottish Funding Council.

On completion of scoring of the previous 3 applications NH confirmed that £73,975.18 would be moved from the LEADER Operating Costs Budget to Rural Diversification it would then be fully committed.

**4.4 - 07/P00076 I&L Galloway, Wigwam Holidays, total eligible costs £403,677.00 with a grant of £150,000 (37.16%) requested. Match funding was confirmed to be in place with planning permission pending.**

Provision of 6 glamping pods to diversify and to provide opportunity for the next generation to continue to live and work in the area. The proposal will generate significant benefits to the local economy in the form of increased footfall and the associated revenue benefits this brings, much needed employment, as well as creating a totally, unique package holiday experience, the likes of which currently do not exist in the area.

Discussion was opened up to the Group. It was felt to be a new and different project to the majority of the group, but others thought there were similar experiences being offered in the region and questioned the innovation. However, with VisitScotland's positive response to the application, many Members agreed it was the experience being offered to the visitor that was innovative. A number of references were made to the area being given National Park status, but Members noted this was a long way off. The Group felt this was a very skilfully written application.

Members felt there were positive letters of support from organisations and businesses and the group were encouraged by the amount of support provided in the application. Members felt that any project which brings tourists/visitors back to the area should be welcomed. It was felt that this project would



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provide a good number of visitors and will offer a new experience. Members suggested a connection could be made with other LEADER funded project in the area such as Rural Swim at Whauphill and the Round House at Whithorn.

Members felt the application had evolved from draft stage, not only now offering accommodation but also experiential tourism, with LAG Members noting this is extremely important for the future of Tourism in the region.. There were no marketing costs listed, but Wigwam Central Organisation supplies a lot of marketing etc. as part of the package and training.

After discussion the group 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?	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		23

Number of Members **APPROVING**: 10  
 Number of Members **NOT APPROVING**: 0  
 Number of Members **DEFERRING**: 0

A decision in PRINCIPLE was given until such times as Planning Permission is in place and evidenced. Suggestions for connections/contacts were to contact the Whithorn Trust and Wigtown Booktown.

**The group broke for lunch at 12.35pm and resumed again at 1.05pm**

**Communities Projects**



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**4.5 – 07/P00063 – The Creetown Building Preservation Trust brought The Redevelopment of St Joseph’s Church into a Performing Arts Venue. Total Eligible Expenditure of £270,000 with a grant requested of £135,000 (50%). Match funding, planning permission and building warrant have all been confirmed.**

The project is to redevelop the former Roman Catholic Church, St Josephs, into a fit for purpose arts performance venue, to enable current and potential user groups to expand their creative output, extend their public engagement and develop increased skills development opportunities for people of all ages. The refurbished building will include retractable raked seating, stage lighting and two tuition rooms.

St Joseph’s is B listed and deconsecrated as a church in 1998. It was purchased by the Creetown Silver Band, who use the building as a rehearsal, tuition and storage space. The Creetown Silver Band, which was founded in 1880, has a dedicated membership of over 30 amateur musicians, however the current configuration of the building, disrepair and poor state of facilities means that it is impossible for the band to expand further, reach new members and increase their tuition output. Consequently the band donated the hall to the Creetown Building Preservation Trust, to work to restore St Joseph’s Church and establish it as a Performing Arts Venue for the community of Creetown and the wider area of Dumfries and Galloway.

Members were broadly supportive of the project and it was c=mentioned how well the application had been written; but were concerned about membership and usage being sustained in the village. Discussion around the supporting business plan and outlined programme of events showed how these aforementioned issues had been addressed. It was felt there was a good level of visualisation within the applications of the proposed design, what was to be achieved and how it was to be used.

Queries around the types of performances the applicant were hoping to accommodate were raised, as there was no mention of a piano being provided and/or placement of one, linkages to classical would suggest this to be so. Capacity looks right to be used for touring partners as it appears that performances in Newton Stewart are occasional rather than regular.

Again there was initial concern about uptake and usage, but on reading further into the application it felt more comforting. There are good examples of arts funding previously, and their success in making connections with the community, especially with the support of Creetown Initiative.

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?	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?	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	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		27

Number of Members **APPROVING**: 10  
Number of Members **NOT APPROVING**: 0  
Number of Members **DEFERRING**: 0

Decision was taken to APPROVE the application.

ML left the meeting at 1.15pm as he had declared an interest in the following application.

**4.6 – 07/P00077 The Glenkens Community & Arts Trust’s application for The Old Smiddy Heritage Centre, total eligible expenditure of £328.495, requested a grant of £150,000 (45.66%). Match funding was unconfirmed, but a decision was expected by end of July. A Building Warrant was unconfirmed.**

Renovation and refurbishment of the Old Smiddy at Balmaclellan into a multi-purpose Heritage and Community Hub for the Glenkens area, where a wide range of heritage and community focussed activities can be undertaken with individuals and groups of all ages across the local area and beyond.

The Galloway Glens is rich in many different forms of heritage, and Balmaclellan itself is central to the heritage of a number of key historical groups and individuals like the Covenanters, James Clerk Maxwell, Samuel Crockett, Alexander Murray to name a few. Many local people however (not least the young), are disengaged with local heritage and traditional cultures, skills and stories are rapidly dying out.

In addition, although there are village or topic specific ‘heritage hubs’ across the area, there is no one facility in the area (or in Dumfries and Galloway as a whole) which has the remit or capacity to address local heritage in a holistic way, or which can be used by local individuals, schools, groups and organisations to further their individualised heritage aims. Similarly, although interested in heritage, other local facilities such as local village and community halls don’t have the space or ability to dedicate the kind of space.

The application was discussed. The Group asked if the other funder was known, it is Trust House Heritage. It was thought to be a good project, but questioned value for money. Members discussed the comfort they felt by considering previous work and projects done by the applicant, and how this project could link to the existing work done by GCAT.



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The issue around community division within Balmaclellan was raised. It was noted within the Local Regeneration Plan over half of the people surveyed were in favour of the Smiddy being used for this intended purpose. It was noted the additionality that this project will provide, and the links it can create with the heritage trail which is existing and developing in the area. It was felt this project helped support a rural area, and once built will provide many exciting opportunities for people in the region.

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?	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?	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	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
<b>TOTAL SCORE</b>		<b>27</b>

Number of Members **APPROVING**: 9  
 Number of Members **NOT APPROVING**: 0  
 Number of Members **DEFERRING**: 0

Decision was taken to APPROVE the application in PRINCIPLE. Applicant will have 60 days from meeting day to confirm building warrant and remaining match funding.

ML returned to the meeting at 1.30.

**4.7 07/P00082 – Newton Stewart Initiative’s Douglas Park Sports Improvement application – total eligible expenditure of £180,418 with a grant requested of £90,209 (50%). Their match funding and planning permission has been confirmed.**



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The Improving and Increasing Sports Facilities at Douglas Park project is a charity led capital project that will encompass a 4 man BMX race track, the only facility of its kind in South West Scotland, improved football facilities, car park, footpaths and fencing installed on an area of under-used park land in Newton Stewart, Wigtownshire.

The park is to be a free to use facility by both able bodied and disabled members of the community bringing back into use an area of land that had become neglected in recent times.

The project will also act as a draw to the region for experiential tourism and will be an accompaniment to the local Mountain Bike Courses and allow local people to play close to home in a safe environment removing the need to travel to the far side of the town to find such facilities.

The application was discussed by the Group. The reason this project was previously withdrawn was due to a eligibility issues with their Sports Scotland Match Funding, which has now been clarified. The application has been reviewed and the Revenue costs have now been ring-fenced within the applicants Holywood Trust funding. It was felt that despite the project being of worth, and showing good outcomes for Newton Stewart, the application could have been better written. Despite this it was agreed about the benefits this could bring to Newton Stewart, and it's links with National BMX organisations were encouraging.

After discussion, the Group scored the application as follows.

**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?	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	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		27

Number of Members **APPROVING**: 10  
 Number of Members **NOT APPROVING**: 0



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Number of Members **DEFERRING: 0**

Decision was taken to APPROVE the application.

TD left the meeting at 1.40pm as she had previously declared an interest in the project and NH advised the group that she had been invited to be a part of the multi Agency Steering Group but as soon as they expressed an interest in applying for LEADER funding, she stepped down and had no involvement in the subsequent application.

**4.8 NHS Dumfries and Galloway's application, Health and Wellbeing in the Farming Community has a total eligible expenditure of £29,600 with a grant request for £14,800 (50%). Match funding has been confirmed.**

The Health & Wellbeing in the Farming Community Project is focused on delivery through collaboration and partnership, placing co-design and co-production with the farming community at the heart. The delivery model is to build capacity and knowledge within the community and existing organisations rather than creating new organisations or roles. This will also support sustainability for each initiative and encourages knowledge sharing.

The programme has a series of identified actions which include:

- Mental health awareness and training to improve understanding, such as managing stress and being resilient as well as suicide prevention.
- Utilising sport will be used as a vehicle to work with young men to improve self-care, resilience and wellbeing.
- Addressing health and safety practice within the community through working with partners plus influencing the curriculum to include health, safety, and wellbeing for the farmers of tomorrow.
- A pilot project supporting retired farmers, in particular those experiencing dementia, to improve social connections and develop a farming reminiscence resource will complement this.

The Group discussed the application as follows. It was felt that this was a very much needed project in the Rural Community but disappointed not to see a cost associated for evaluation. There are links with Alzheimer Scotland, who are part of the multiagency steering group. Questions were raised around the location this will be delivered, and it was understood this project would focus mostly within the Stewartry. The group were aware that if a person was involved in a suicide then it is important to treat the family/social groups, if this is to be incorporated, it should be said explicitly.

A LAG member recounted Suicide Prevention Training which had been attended recently which is being implemented within the project, and the benefits and use it has had.

Members felt this project is worthwhile and will build strong partnerships, that it could be extended beyond the farming community as others experience mental health problems described in the application.. Talks about the potential of this pilot project being extended out to other areas were discussed, and felt that hopefully this could be implemented.



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The group discussed the lack of evaluation that had been included in the application, or the lack of budget allocation for this. Evaluation of the results of this project were felt to be very valuable, and should be included as a condition. In time it will be fed back to the Rural Mental Health Forum, in which the senior applicant sits on the focus group for.

After discussion, the group scored as follows

**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?	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	3
9	Does the project clearly demonstrate what will be achieved by the project – Outcomes/Indicators/Target Groups?	2
10	Are you happy that this project fits comfortably within the LEADER Local Development Strategy (LDS)?	yes
<b>TOTAL SCORE</b>		<b>26</b>

Number of Members **APPROVING**: 9  
 Number of Members **NOT APPROVING**: 0  
 Number of Members **DEFERRING**: 0

Decision was taken to APPROVE the application. A condition was made that the group must include some form of evaluation within the project.

TD rejoined the meeting at 1.55pm

**4.9 07/P00085 – the Whithorn Trust’s application Whithorn Archaeological Cold Case had a total eligible expenditure of £104,400, requested a grant of £23,341 (22.41%). Their match funding was unconfirmed but expected a decision by end of June.**

This project will re-examine the skeletal evidence and organic remains from the Middle Ages (held in Stranraer Museum archives) in Whithorn’s archaeological "cold case", (closed 30 years ago) and conduct

original research-led scientific testing of the collection to illuminate the lives and deaths of the real people who were at the origin of Christianity in Scotland.

It will better preserve the collection for future access, increase understanding of the collection, linking with the major research institutions in Scotland, while sharing this ancient detective story, through involvement in bio-ethical debate, “behind the scenes” tours, workshops and applied science, with the public and schools. The results of the project will, beyond the scope of this application, inform new displays and interpretation at the Whithorn Trust, to ensure its future as a strategic museum interpreting the origins of the South of Scotland.

The publicity and further developments this project will generate will have a huge impact on Whithorn, the Machars and Wigtownshire.

The Group discussed the application as follows. Some were unclear what the project was trying to achieve. Some members were unsure if the main was archaeological rather than tourism and thought connections between the two could be made more coherent. Other members felt this was doing the basics, getting it ready for promotion within the museum, which in an intention for the artefacts after this project. It was discussed that this project solely focused on research and development, and included good links with the local high schools, providing a unique training and education for pupils interested. It was felt this research could help promote the Machars and West of D&G

After discussion, the group scored as follows

### 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?	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?	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	3
9	Does the project clearly demonstrate what will be achieved by the project – Outcomes/Indicators/Target Groups?	2
10	Are you happy that this project fits comfortably within the LEADER Local Development Strategy (LDS)?	yes
<b>TOTAL SCORE</b>		<b>26</b>



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Number of Members **APPROVING**: 8  
Number of Members **NOT APPROVING**: 2  
Number of Members **DEFERRING**: 0

Decision was taken to APPROVE the application in principle, awaiting confirmation of match funding. With a suggestion for connections/contact being made with local academic resources at the Crichton Campus.

**4.10 Crawick Multiverse Trust's application for Crawick Multiverse Visitor Centre Project Officer has a total eligible expenditure of £120,000 with a grant requested of £60,000 (50%). Match funding has been confirmed.**

This project is the crucial first step in the development of a world-class and innovative science/art visitor centre experience and events space, connected to the Crawick Multiverse, in the heart of Sanquhar in the currently derelict Glove Factory.

The project aims to recruit a Project Officer to progress the development of the Glove Factory in Sanquhar as a Visitor Centre for Crawick Multiverse. Within the twelve months of this role the aim is: To develop a fully-costed brief for the development of a visitors centre at the Glove Factory in Sanquhar, with the following objectives:

- increase community capacity through the conducting of extensive community consultations;
- understand fully all options available, through the commissioning of an options appraisal and feasibility study;
- have a fully-costed design, meeting the needs of the community, and creating a bespoke space for the proposed visitor centre;
- establish a route to funding the capital works through develop of a comprehensive funding strategy;
- engage with local schools and families through the development and delivery of a pilot programme of educational events prior to the capital works.

The vision is to create a space accessible to all, connecting art, science, and cultural heritage, while at the same time providing vital economic opportunities, and regeneration of a derelict building, although this could have an impact as the visitor centre is 10 minutes away from the attraction.

The group discussed the application as follows. It was felt that it was good to see they are reaching into the local community but noted a lot will depend on making the right appointment for the project officer. There is a very comprehensive brief, but questions were raised about achieving everything in within the time period allocated for the project. Others thought it a good idea in principle. Questions were raised around the salary grading, and that many consultants were being drafted in to do elements of the work. It was felt by some members that the wage had been fairly graded. Concerns were raised that the high wage could alienate some members of the community who may consider applying for the position. Building is ownership of Buccleuch Estate (the match funders) and have expressed their allowance of the development to go ahead, depending on the outcomes of the feasibility study. It was discussed the unknown outcomes that this project will present, but was also made aware that LEADER is not risk averse.

The community seem to be behind the project, but the group would like to see use of the school included in the project. If the project was approved, recommendations for connections should be made. It was noted that they are intending to transform empty premises which is always good and it was considered



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to be a sound proposal. Comment was made that the application was not particularly well written, compared to others being assessed today.. The group could see that this base was chosen to bring it into the community and more able to maximise the asset and promote the connections and that it has potential when it comes to the capital stage of the development.. The project could allow for further promotion of the multiverse, and attracting more tourism and visitors to the Upper Nithsdale area.

After discussion, the group scored as follows

**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?	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
10	Are you happy that this project fits comfortably within the LEADER Local Development Strategy (LDS)?	yes
<b>TOTAL SCORE</b>		<b>24</b>

Number of Members **APPROVING**: 10  
 Number of Members **NOT APPROVING**: 0  
 Number of Members **DEFERRING**: 0

Decision was taken to APPROVE the application. With a suggestion for connections/contact being made with Sanquhar Academy and Visit Scotland.

JJ left the meeting at 2.45pm after declaring an interest in the following cooperation project

**Cooperation Project**

**4.11 – 07/P00086 - Langholm Initiative’s cooperation project, Pulling the Threads Together has a total eligible expenditure and requested grant of £5000 (100%)**



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This project will allow for a six month period of collaboration, co-operation and exchange of skills and learning, between the Langholm Initiative and ‘ReTweed’ which will be captured in a comprehensive report with recommendations for the future.

Discussion was opened up to the Group. Members considered this to be a great project by some with good linkages and were encouraged by the successful Retweed project in Eyemouth. One Member questioned the amount of funding that Langholm Initiative bring it but it was felt by the other Members that this shows an active and successful community. Members recognised the decline of the once vibrant textiles industry in Langholm and felt this project could look to address this in the future. LAG Members also saw the importance and potentially powerful influence of Peer to Peer learning. LAG Members were in agreement this project would be good in quality and deliver the outcomes proposed.

After discussion, the group scored as follows

**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?	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?	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	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
<b>TOTAL SCORE</b>		<b>28</b>

Number of Members **APPROVING**: 9  
 Number of Members **NOT APPROVING**: 0  
 Number of Members **DEFERRING**: 0

Decision was taken to APPROVE the application. With a suggestion for connections/contact being made with Creetown Initiative.

JJ returned to the meeting at 2.45pm and the Group broke for a 15 minutes period  
 The group resumed business at 3.00pm



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#### **5 AOCB - Update on Expressions of Interest**

The project officers updated the Group with figures of 12 EOI's having been received before the deadline and a further 4 on the morning of the deadline date. The Team are encouraged by the on-going interest of LEADER funding. It was noted that 5 of the EOIs received were for Farm Diversification projects with potential to receive more on the day. Part of the PO role is to manage the expectations of the applicants, reiterating that the funds are diminishing.

#### **Claims Process**

Several LAG members voiced their concerns over their disappointment to hear that the Savings Scotland's Red Squirrels project had not been able to complete claims as their Finance Department could not prepare and submit the required information for the process. Members had received feedback from projects to say that it was a complicated and laborious process. JM advised that applicants were actively completing claims successfully, even if they had less resources than national organisations. PR was attending a Chairs Group meeting the following day and would take the concerns and strength of feeling to them and ask what their feedback has been.

#### **South of Scotland Environment Agency Consultation Response**

Response to the SOSEA consultation – thanks were given to NH for pulling together the recent LAG sub groups meeting and responses. It was a particularly impassioned meeting and the response was a great piece of work, due to NH.

The Groups attention was drawn to the advertisements being published for the Scottish Rural Parliament, and if they wished to take part either as an attendee or a facilitator, you need to register your interest. If attending, please promote LEADER.

DR, gave thanks to PR for chairing the meeting and keeping it on time. PR completed his duties by thanking the staff for their continued hard work.

**Date of next meeting is 12 September 2018, at 10.00am The Holiday Inn, Dumfries.**

The meeting closed at 3.30pm