

MINUTES

LEADER Local Action Group – Full LAG Meeting

Wednesday 11 October 2017, 2pm

Held at:	Oasis Centre, Newall Terrace, Dumfries	
Present:	Peter Ross (PR)	Cathy Agnew (CA)
	Caroline Brown (CB)	Teresa Dougall (TD)
	Barry Dunne (BD)	Sharon Glendinning (SG)
	Harry Harbottle (HH)	Anna Johnson (AJ)
	Judith Johnson (JJ)	Clair McFarlan (CM)
	Alastair McNeill (AM)	Eva Milroy (EM)
	David Rennie (DR)	Mairi Telford-Jammeh (MTJ)
	Rob Wells (RW)	
Staff:	Nicola Hill (NH)	Lewis Boddy (LB)
	Ellen Grant (EG)	Rowan Lloyd (RL)
	Jessie Mason (JM)	Lesley Ross (LR)
	Simone Tyrie (ST)	
Apologies:	Carol-Ann Brown (CAB)	Grant Course (GC)
	Ed Forrest (EF)	Gill Khosla (GK)
	McNabb Laurie (ML)	Debbie Parke (DP)
	Claire Thirlwall (CT)	John Tooth (JT)
	Karen Ward-Boyd (KWB)	Jenny Wilson (JW)
No Response	Norman Burns	Gill Dykes
	Tony Fitzpatrick	Paula Ward
	Stephen Hardy	June Lochhead
	Shaun McGuire	Pam Taylor
	Jonathan Warren	Allan Watson

Welcome from the Chair

The Chair welcomed all attendees to the 2nd Full LAG meeting. He advised the group that we had already committed 44% of our total funds and he was optimistic for the short term future of the Fund and for the long term, it is important that we all do our bit to keep LEADER in the forefront of conversation. This time is both invigorating and exhilarating.

He took time to thank the staff, recognising they are the core and that they went above and beyond in all of their roles.

He also took the opportunity to thank his fellow LAG members, their efforts in the production of the LDS had realised a doubling of the fund monies coming to D&G. He recalled a couple of early awards prior to this programme eg the Crichton campus received £10,000, the benefits of which are here for all to see and benefit from and a local business who needed new equipment also received £10,000, he is still in business today. We are all ambassadors and need to encourage organisations and businesses to make applications.

Minutes

The minute was accepted as a true and accurate record of the last meeting, it was proposed by HH and seconded by SG.

Matters Arising

There were none.

Actions

The foresight group met on one occasion but did not carry on, now we have Scottish Government's backing it should be able to go forward. PR

The meeting dates for all groups were circulated. NH

Presentations

Nic Coombey – Solway Coastwise Project

Joyce Woodcock – Uplands Creative Network

Lesley Ross – Day of the Region

Rowan Lloyd and Ellen Grant – Amaze Me LEADER

All presentation and links can be uploaded onto the website

NH confirmed that the annual report highlights our intention to bring Amaze Me LEADER to the region in the Year of Young People, we are all very enthusiastic about the prospect of the cooperation project with Finland. A draft application has already been submitted to the Communities Group for consideration at their December meeting.

Annual Report

NH following feedback from the last meeting, she had changed the format and rather than a presentation of facts and figures, she had invited projects in to show the variety and animation of LEADER. The annual report was circulated to all members prior to the meeting and they were asked to prepare any questions in advance.

NH advised there are still a good number and variety of projects being submitted. Scottish Government have been trying to iron out the intricacies of LARCs by delivering a 2 day training course to all LEADER staff. So far ST and JM have been on it, reporting back they have learned some new information on how to complete claims etc, this will be fed back to projects in an attempt to simplify the process. The remainder of the staff are still to attend.

NH, as the Programme Manager gave thanks to the team, who face challenges but don't falter in the face of them.

MTJ asked what the observations were of the last programme? It was highlighted that interaction with other projects and partnership working was found to be most beneficial. We are endeavouring to do this and are trying to keep LEADER at the forefront by attending strategic meetings of different groups, eg CLLD and the newly formed Rural Mental Health Forum. We attend meetings to ensure LEADER is as widely known as possible and not sitting in isolation.

Our projects cover a wide range of demographics, from the young involved in Amaze Me LEADER to those in later life who could be part of the recently approved Building the Case for a Care Campus at the Crichton, Dumfries.

HH said he knew that LEADER has had proven effect and that evaluation of projects should be considered as a celebration rather than a chore. We have a good balance of European and international connections. We should however be cautious and guard against accepting projects which see us fund main stream services.

DR asked if there would be a mid-term review or evaluation? Is there a feeling that any monies not committed could be vired to other areas? NH does not get that feeling at all, we are currently sitting at around 44% committed of our total fund, we are in a comfortable place in this regard, others have changed their criteria, eg Ayrshire gave an intervention rate of 90%, which has seen their fund fully committed, but now they are experiencing difficulties in committing their Rural Enterprise Fund.



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There is less money in the EMFF but we are, again, seeing enough projects coming through. There are a number of applications in the pipeline. The very successful Stranraer Oyster Festival did well to publicise the fund. It is gaining momentum.

EM asked what will happen as a result of the recent resignation of the Chair of the Rural Enterprise Group. NH advised that decisions had been taken by the SMG at the meeting in the morning for a refresh of LAG members and some other changes, an email will be circulated soon with details.

Action - NH

AOCB

None.

The meeting closed at 4.20pm

Date of Next Meeting

10 October 2018 – Woodbank Committee Room

