



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 12 September 2018, 10.00

Held at The Holiday Inn, Dumfries

Present	Harry Harbottle (HH) (I) Sharon Glendinning (SG) (I) Judith Johnson (JJ) (I) Clair McFarlan (CM) (I) Peter Ross (PR) (I) Jenny Wilson (JW) (I)	Teresa Dougall (TD) (I) Anna Johnson (AJ) (P) McNabb Laurie (ML) (P) Eva Milroy (EM) (I) Rob Wells (RW) (I)
Leader Staff	Nicola Hill (NH) Ellen Grant (EG)	Lewis Boddy (LB) Jessie Mason (JM)
Apologies	Tony Fitzpatrick (TF) (I)	Juliette Cooke (JC) (P)

Meeting commenced at 10.00am

1 Welcome and Apologies

1.1 HH, the welcomed all members to the meeting and thanked them for their attendance. JM advised on apologies received for the meeting, see list above. NH updated on LAG membership, Daniel Hird has had to step down and Mairi Telford Jammeh, due to other commitments, she was not able to give the time the role requires. NH asked them both to stay in touch and if they wish to become involved again at a later date, we would be pleased to hear from them.

1.2 Declaration of interest –
ML - 07/P00094 Dark Skies Visitor Centre & Planetarium

2 Minutes of Meetings

2.1 LEADER Group meeting 14 March 2018 –

The minutes were proposed by CM and seconded by AJ.

EG updated Members on the following Projects from the previous meeting:

- ‘Dark Art Gin’ was approved in principal awaiting confirmation of Match Funding. This Match Funding has since been evidenced and the Project is now Live.
- ‘Loch Ken Passiv Pod’ was approved in principal, however, this decision was changed to an Electronic Deferral due to a delay in Planning Permission. EG had since had confirmation that the Planning Permission was now in place and once the application is updated on LARCs she will email the LAG for a final decision.
- ‘Wigwam Holidays Wigtown’ was Approved in principal pending evidence of Planning Permission. The Planning Permission had since been put in place and the project is now Live.

LB updated members on the following Communities projects which were approved in Principle at the June LEADER meeting:



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

- 'Old Smiddy Heritage Centre' received their match funding decisions, which has been evidenced. The Project is now live on LARCS.
- 'Whithorn Archaeological Cold Case' received the match funding decision they needed for the project to go ahead and is now live on LARCS.

Other matters arising – HH highlighted that Scottish Rural Parliament SRP) were still looking for volunteers for all types of roles. Please register on the website.

PR attended the meeting to say hello and give a brief update. The Chairs meeting is feeding into National Council of Rural Advisors (NCRA) Consultation as a stakeholder. Working towards a statement to produce at SRP. He was fairly optimistic that something to replace LEADER will be in place based on proven need.

SG took the opportunity to recognise the work undertaken for Amaze Me LEADER. She said she was beaming with pride being associated with the Think Tank event and further evidenced by the videos shown, which was again reinforced by the young people. Having a national profile with a message from the First Minister and she was seated in a row with significant national representatives.

A vote of thanks was given for AML, the energy and articulation shown by the Young People was great.

We can discuss more fully plans for the future at the annual LAG meeting in October. SRP gives a target for D&G LEADER.

JW noted that she had attended a recent a MP surgery in her local village hall, she took the opportunity of asking Oliver Mundell and Alistair Jack, "How is funding to be provided in the place of LEADER".

Thanks for the comments, NH said we had been involved in AML since 2011, it had been written into our LDS in the wider outcomes. It is not finished yet, there are longterm outcomes.

Good news, Estonia has put their hand up as being interested in hosting AML next year. There is a good chance that young people from Dumfries and Galloway will have the opportunity to travel and visit there.

SG also advised the meeting she has been involved in discussion regarding the future and there is a definitive movement in proposals. Dumfries and Galloway level has to be developed, but very active in the South of Scotland, and Third Sector, there has been support from Highlands and Islands Enterprise on Community based, there needs to be a good mix of proposals. Sharing for exploration to be undertaken.

It is important for LEADER to have our own presence. NH advised she sat on the Thematic Group, which now has a more balanced membership of Borders and South of Scotland. The next meeting is in early November.

Follow up meeting on 28/9 and 5/10 of the Thematic Groups to continue the conversations. NH Will circulate details with and invite for all to attend. The actions and pledges from the Think Tank will be followed up.

PR's pledge was "to make sure something happens" – he will do!



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

3 Consideration of Applications

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

NH received unanimous approval for the proposed way forward regarding the remaining LEADER funds. The Communities applications to be heard at the meeting meant there were sufficient funds available to cover these if they were all supported. The remaining funds would then be pooled, Farm Diversification, Cooperation and Communities. After the morning meeting, it may be that applications would have to be put into order of preference once they had been discussed.

NH asked the meeting if anyone had any questions, there were none.

Communities

3.1 P00081 Port William Youth Centre Extension. Total Eligible expenditure of £45,226.20, asking for a LEADER grant of £ 20,226.20 (40.72%). They have their match funding confirmed with their planning permission in place.

CM thought this was a good community led project with community backing, and showed good value for money considering the small grant they have requested from LEADER. JJ expressed that the organisation have a good solid volunteer effort and the organisation maintain a good record of accomplishment for delivering projects. TD felt it they were in a good position to take it forward.

ML had concerns about outdoor gym equipment not being used as he had experience of being involved with projects similar to this, and the equipment was rarely used. The group highlighted the fact that the project plan demonstrated sufficient evidence of demand and need and that the gm equipment was going to be used by different demographics of the Port William community.

Group members vocalised it may not be popular if people felt self-conscious, using equipment in an open public space. It was explained to the group that the gym would be set back, behind the youth centre, so people using it had a sense of privacy.

Scoring of the project followed.

Scoring – 3.1 Port William Youth Centre Extension

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?	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		26

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

A decision was taken to **APPROVE** the application.

3.2 – P00092 KPT Development Officer, total eligible expenditure £41,457.00, grant request of £20,728 (49.99%). Match Funding still to be confirmed. If Group wished to support this project, they would only be able to make a decision in principle due to match funding still to be confirmed.

ML had experience in a previous role and gave a bit of background on how the organisation came to their current structure. It was agreed by the group that they would achieve more by working together, in which they have and this application has come from. TD felt it was good to see the Development Officer role being spearheaded by LEADER and felt that roles like this are often necessary for groups like the KPT Trust.

RW and CM questioned what happens when funding runs out and how much will they be able to achieve in the time given. As detailed in the exit strategy it was highlighted that once officer is in post they would source other funds. JJ is a development officer and detailed that in positions like this you are often networking and building relations with funders, in mind of future sustainability.

Scoring of the project followed

Scoring – 3.2 KPT Development Officer

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

A decision in PRINCIPLE was made by the Group, awaiting confirmation match funding.

A suggestion was made to meet with Langholm Initiative around similar projects they have helped deliver. It was also suggested that they make contact with Kilgallioch Community Benefit Trust.

10.50am ML left the meeting

3.3 P00094 Dark Skies Visitor Centre & Planetarium, total eligible expenditure £410,640.00 with a grant of £ 150,000.00 requested. Further information from Dumfries and Galloway Council is required on match funding to confirm the monies are ringfenced for the Dark Skies project. All planning permission has been confirmed. If the group wanted to support the project, a decision in principle could only be given until all information was obtained.

AJ – costs were quite confusing, budget didn't seem to relate, costs high for one room.

TD Is this to be similar to facility in Dalmellington? Unique offering? What would the impact be on this? The Dark Skies project is more about interactive science. Images can be projected onto the ceiling, different to Dalmellington as that is a telescope. In Dumfries and Galloway, you have the guarantee of seeing stars.

SG felt she wanted to support it but had a feeling of apprehension, the costs are high.

CM, are there any other things dependant on this? Other elements coming together because of it? They have done a good bit of engagement with families in the area.

RW really liked this project and seemed good fun.

Investment will have a longer impact, there are lost already in the area, be positive for the area. Business plan and job creation, contributing to the town of Kirkcudbright and Tourism.



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

AJ visited an exhibition in Cumbria recently and assumed it would too have been expensive to put together. To do it properly, you need money.

The impression was that they know what they are doing, underplayed the connection to the Forest Dark Skies. Positive message if they are pointing to Dark Skies.

High costs have been noted. JW – most are delivering jobs, but not high-end jobs. Would be good if slightly more were at the top end. If funding was secured, this could build strong relations with College and University, to try to secure higher level skills. Will need an engagement officer role in the future.

After discussion the Group scored the project as follows.

Scoring – 3.3 Dark Skies Visitor Centre & Planetarium

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 in PRINCIPLE** : 8

Number of Members **NOT APPROVING**: 0

Number of Members **DEFERRING**: 0

A breakdown of the budget should be provided to the project officer.

Connections should be made with the Dalmellington Observatory, Galloway Astronomy Centre and Dark Skies Park.

A decision in PRINCIPLE was made by the Group, awaiting confirmation of match funding detail.

11.10am, ML returned to the meeting and the meeting broke for a comfort break.
11.15am, the meeting resumed.

3.4 P00095 Barcaple Multi-Use Activity Barn, total eligible costs for the project of £352,994.00 with a grant requested of £90,000 (25.5%). Match funding has yet to be confirmed. Planning permission is in place. If the group wanted to support the project, a decision in principle could only be given until all information match funding is confirmed.

EM liked the idea, different activities and innovative for the Region. Good to see exposure of Abernethy, they seem to have been working under the radar. Both ML and SG like the project.

RW – If LEADER doesn't support, they will build a smaller facility. They have a chance of more competitions and opportunities if it was a larger facility. CM asked if schools used it? It was noted the letters of support from a local primary school. It was commented on how well the application had been written and that it's use of videos was very engaging.

AJ felt the project will need a good marketing plan when it is up and running, to ensure people from the region know where it is. It was commented that the project will need to have suitable changing places for disabled users, which was unclear if they were providing, or if the facility already has them in place. LB said he would clarify this with the applicants.

After discussion, the group scored the application as follows.

After discussion, the group scored the application as follows.

Scoring – 3.4 Barcaple Multi-Use Activity Barn

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



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

10 Are you happy that this project fits comfortably within the LEADER Local Development Strategy (LDS)?	Yes
TOTAL SCORE	28

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

Suggestion was made to meet with Muckle Toon Adventure Festival as they will have experience of bouldering, climbing and cycling etc. Also include changing facilities for disabled children.

3.5 P00100 21st Century Curling, total eligible expenditure of £21,188.00 with a grant requested of £10,594.00 (50%). Match funding has been confirmed.

JW wondered if Klutch Curling was something which could be sold to other rinks. A question of ownership arose and LB confirmed that D&G Council own the facility but there is a Service Level Agreement in place between DGC and DIBCA. This project would simplify the booking process and make the methods of booking ice a lot easier and save a lot of time, specifically for rural communities who predominately use the facility.

This is the first of its kind and will be interesting to see how it works. At present booking can be an involved and complicated process. SG was not convinced and felt a sense of nervousness around the project, but could not be specific on the reasons why.

It was agreed that this is not like other applications the group have looked at. The group felt they should be supporting this, as curling is a major Scottish Brand. Not a sport we all understand, but big from a community point of view, if it makes booking easier, all to the good. It was felt that if they played the sport they may be able to understand the need better, however EM is a curler and could help explain the current situation and that numbers have rocketed in the last 4 years due to the success of the national team. It is a common problem throughout the country, and it should be rolled out nationally. It was felt this was a good opportunity for D&G to take the lead to help modernise Scottish Curling.

AJ, was very convinced, good to have experimentation and involvement in sports. RW was happy with the project and felt it was innovative.

CM - there are many avenues for funding and involved in this community. Completely imaginative, great to fund a first and shows good practice. Very positive for young people, they will expect to be able to book electronically. It was asked if the old system was still to remain, which LB was unsure of, but assumed so. It was felt this should be confirmed if the group were of a mind to approve the project.

Scoring – 3.5 21st Century Curling

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



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

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		29

Number of Members **APPROVING in PRINCIPLE** : 8

Number of Members **NOT APPROVING**: 1

Number of Members **DEFERRING**: 0

Suggestion for connection, can this be shared with Lockerbie and Stranraer, making it available Dumfries and Galloway wide. They may have different set ups and this is not practical but this should be explored. Clarification on whether the old system would stay in place, in order to not disenfranchise the older players who may not want to adopt the new booking method.

NH Once all the Communities projects had been scored on and awards to be made, there is a balance of £82,332.55. This money will be amalgamated with Farm Diversification and Cooperation. If all projects on the agenda were to be funded the amount would exceed the money available. The meeting will discuss applications in order of agenda, they will then put them in order of preference.

LEADER staff will work out the order to be scored.

Farm Diversification now has £445,989.33 potentially available. The value of Farm Diversification applications is £477,970.00.

The meeting was advised it should concentrate their discussions and debate and score the applications normally with no thought to funding.

AJ – noted an anomaly in the figures provided. There had been an error which had been corrected. JJ, Geographically, there is a close proximity of applications, with potential for conflict. They are close, but offer different types of experience and accommodation. SG asked if there was any feedback from Visit Scotland as they were quite similar. Feedback was that they had to meet a need.

One of the applications did have Visit Scotland comments. Need for different types highlighted by Visit Scotland.

Group wondered if they had been developed in isolation, do they know about each other?



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

EG was unsure if all of the applicants knew about each other, but sure there were a few of them that did, there were unlikely to be any displacement of offerings. Demonstrate working together.

Needs for accommodation do change, self-catering against B&B etc. There are some that stand out as LEADER projects.

Lots of farms are looking at diversification potential to add to core business and build, they have to look at what they have available to work with, normally that is accommodation.

Do applicants answer the question “will they work”, they are taking the risk. EG would contact Visit Scotland for their comments, they had been asked but as yet not received.

The meeting will look at the applications on their own merits.

The meeting broke for lunch at 12.00noon
The meeting resumed after lunch at 12.40pm

EG was able to speak to a representative from VisitScotland during the break and they were able to provide the following feedback in terms of the Need for Accommodation in D&G:

- Demand for alternative accommodation that takes people back to nature, however, with a higher quality of stay
- 6+ units could make a hugely positive impact to local communities and would equate to a 50 room hotel in a city
- If there are less than 6 units, the project should show it is either looking at a more niche market or is filling a gap in demand
- If projects can show they are encouraging visitors to use other local services such as the food and drink industry/tourism/labour market this will also make a positive impact on the local economy.

3.6 – P00096 Drumbain Shepherds Huts, total eligible expenditure of £90,000.00 with a grant requested of £45,000.00 (50%). Planning permission is in place and match funding confirmed

SG favoured the application, seeing a good connection with GG’s yard, whose wedding bookings are increasing and therefore increasing demand for short stay accommodation in the area.

JJ could see the benefit of using hampers from local food producers. TD thought it was a good application and felt it would be a good added value to their farming business.

Some Members debated the connections between this organisation and GG’s yard, however, were satisfied this is a stand alone business and as well tapping into the success of GG’s yard they will also add value to the wider accommodation market in D&G.

After questions from the Members EG noted the applicants are currently having a proper contract on security of the lease being drawn up.

RW questioned their targeted occupancy of 60%, debating it may be too ambitious, however, some Members made the point that GG’s yard had back-to-back weddings booked for the next 2 years and therefore this predicted occupancy rate was not unrealistic.



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

Some members wanted assurance that the huts would be sympathetic to the environment, however, it was pointed out that Planning requirements in D&G are very strict in terms of environmental impact and therefore this is something the Planning Department within the Council will have already ensured this.

3.7 P00097 A Farming Life, total eligible expenditure £197,890.00 with a grant of £98,945.00 requested (50%). Match funding has already been confirmed but planning permission is not in place. If the group wished to support this project, a decision to defer rather than a decision in principle could be made.

While some Members found it difficult to grasp the purpose of the Project, others felt it to be an innovative idea. RW questioned the probability of the business being successful in terms of the Farm tourism aspect and would have liked more comfort that this is something that is attractive to visitors.

Members felt that with the added attraction of visitors working with animals comes issues such as Health & Safety and Biosecurity. Members felt the application did not cover these issues enough to give them comfort. Although Members felt this was a brilliant idea, they would need to see more from the applicant before making a decision.

Members questioned whether the applicant had had support from Business Gateway as there was no previous experience in Tourism businesses.

EM did not see the connection between the Shepherds Huts and the Barn and would like further explanation around this.

JW liked the location, with Upper Nithsdale being a place of interest for LEADER and could encourage tourists into the area.

CM pointed out that this was a business looking to add value to their current business by trying to do something different.

3.8 P00098 Experience Galloway, total eligible expenditure £332,850.00, grant of £150,000.00 (50%) requested. Match funding has been confirmed as being in place, but planning permission is not. If the group wished to support this project, a decision to defer rather than a decision in principle could be made.

Some Members did not like the concept of 'No kitchen facility' type accommodation and felt visitors would probably like the choice. Members were not clear on the applicant's target market; if it is the equestrian market they questioned this type of accommodation. TD like the concept however felt the application was lacking in detail.

Members questioned whether this project had an aim to 'save' the businesses café and if not, this was not clear enough in the application. Members felt the application lacked information regarding the wider community benefit and would have liked to see more of this.

SG pointed out the project was looking to place 10 units and referred to Visit Scotland's comment that larger amounts of units would make a hugely positive impact to the wider rural community.

The group was reminded that they could only give a deferral at most as there is no planning permission in place and therefore could ask for issues to be addressed and change their application.



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

3.9 P00099 Cree Valley Lodges, total eligible costs of £296,000.00, with a LEADER grant of £148,000.00 (50%). Match funding has been confirmed but planning permission is not in place. If the group wished to support this project, a decision to defer rather than a decision in principle could be made.

Members felt positively about this application, particularly around the disabled access aspect of the accommodation. The Group felt it an innovative idea providing stables for people looking to holiday with their horses.

Members felt the applicants were well known and had good reputation in the area and took comfort the experience and competency was there to look after other animals and make this a successful business.

TD questioned whether there was anything similar in the region, however, the group were not aware of anything. Members felt the rationale for the business to help support the 3rd generation of farming was fitting for LEADER. Members noted it is similar to a LEADER application made to the Borders recently, which had much success.

Members liked the links with local schools, potentially offering work experience and Equine Tourism Career paths.

3.10 P00102 Alpaca Your Bags, total eligible expenditure of £72,050.00 with a grant of £36,025.00 requested (50%). Match funding has not been confirmed and planning permission is yet in place. If the group wished to support this project, a decision to defer rather than a decision in principle could be made.

Members discussed the application with many feeling positive about the project, however questioned the experience the applicant has in the art sector. Members would like to see the applicant working more with the arts sector to see the business success.

Members felt the positioning of the pod has been considered and the applicant had thought about the landscape.

SG took comfort that the original LEADER funded project had made a positive impact on the business and this was further building on that.

Members were encouraged by the wider activities undertaken by the applicant such as attending farmer's markets and selling their own products.

Some Members were not enthused by the application and felt that although it was diversifying, it was not wholly building on the Alpaca aspect of the business.

JW questioned the projected price of the bothy, however, was assured that it is not unusual for accommodation like this to be between £100-£150 a night. Members noted the applicant is very open to conversations and has already initiated connections with Uplands.

13.25 – Scoring sheets were passed round for the LAG to record their preference in listing the applications for scoring.

Team put scoring in order



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

- 1 Cree Valley Lodges (14)
- 2 Drumbain Shepherds Huts (24)
- 3 Alpaca Your Bags (27)
- 4 A Farming Life (30)
- 5 Experience Galloway (40)

Scoring followed

Scoring – Cree Valley Lodges

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?	2
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

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

Reason for deferral:

- Allow applicant time to provide and evidence Planning Permission



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

Scoring – Drumbain Shepherds Huts

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?	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		26

Number of Members **APPROVING**: 9

Number of Members **NOT APPROVING**: 0

Number of Members **DEFERRING**: 0

Decision was taken to **APPROVE** the application *subject to current Planning Permission*.

Scoring – Alpaca Your Bags

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?	3

5	Does the project demonstrate value for money?	3
6	Does the project clearly demonstrate additionality?	2
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		25

Number of Members **APPROVING**: 0

Number of Members **NOT APPROVING**: 0

Number of Members **DEFERRING**: 9

Reasons for deferral:

- Allow applicant to provide and evidence Planning Permission
- Allow applicant time to evidence Match Funding

Suggestion for connections to be made with Upland and other relevant Art organisations.

Scoring – A Farming Life

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



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

10 Are you happy that this project fits comfortably within the LEADER Local Development Strategy (LDS)?	yes
TOTAL SCORE	26

Number of Members **APPROVING**: 6
 Number of Members **NOT APPROVING**: 3
 Number of Members **DEFERRING**: 9

Reasons for deferral:

- Allow applicant time to evidence and further consider risk assessments, biosecurity, animal health & welfare relevant to this type of project (AgriTourism)
- Allow applicant time to provide further explanation of the compatibility of both elements of the project; the Accommodation & the Barn
- Allow applicant time to evidence wider business support from Business Gateway
- Allow applicant time to evidence full Planning Permission relevant to the project

Scoring – Experience Galloway

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?	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?	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	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
TOTAL SCORE	20

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



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

Reasons for Deferral:

- Allow applicant time to provide additional evidence of market research relevant to their target market
 - Allow applicant time to provide more detail around how the project will enhance their wider business model, in addition to the café
 - Allow applicant time to demonstrate wider community benefit
 - Allow applicant time to provide and evidence full Planning Permission relevant to the above-named project.
- 4 HH** gave a vote of thanks to the Group, he also confirmed out work was not yet done, we need to monitor projects and have continued involvement. He urged members to remain on the LAG, we are looking to the future, we still have Day of the Region until 2020 and AML to organise for 2019. After that there will be Rural Awards and then full evaluation of the programme.
- 5 AOCB – there were no items**

Date of next meeting is 12 December 2018, at 10.00am The Station Hotel, Dumfries.

The meeting closed at 3.00pm

TD gave her apologies for the December meeting.