



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 December 2018, 10.00

Held at The Station Hotel, Dumfries

Present	Harry Harbottle (HH) (I)Chair Sharon Glendinning (SG) (I) (Economic Development) McNabb Laurie (ML) (P)(Landscape Partnership) Clair McFarlan (CM) (I)(Environment)	Tony Fitzpatrick (TF) (I)(Economic Development) Anna Johnson (AJ) (P)(Sustainable Development) Rob Wells (RW) (I)(Community Development) Jenny Wilson (JW) (I)(Arts & Culture)
Leader Staff	Nicola Hill (NH) Ellen Grant (EG)	Lewis Boddy (LB) Jessie Mason (JM)
Apologies	Teresa Dougall Eva Milroy Judith Johnson	Juliette Cooke Gill Dykes

Meeting commenced at 10.00am

1 Welcome and Apologies

1.1 HH, welcomed all members to the festive meeting of the LEADER Group and thanked them for their attendance. He confirmed that ML had advised he would be a few minutes late in arriving. JM advised on apologies received for the meeting, see list above. NH advised there were no changes to the LAG membership. HH asked for any items for AOB – there were none. HH confirmed meeting is quorate.

1.2 Declaration of interest

There were no declarations of interest at this stage.

ML joined the meeting at 10.05am

2 Minutes of Meetings

2.1 LEADER Group meeting 12 September 2018 –

The minutes were proposed by CM and seconded by AJ.

There were no matters arising.

NH confirmed to the group that there were confidential waste facilities available for the groups' use for destroying old LEADER papers.

LB updated the group on the projects from the last meeting.

The KPT Development Officer application were successful in receiving their match funding from the Annandale Nithsdale Community Benefit Company. The project is now live and have appointed their development worker.



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Dark Skies Visitor Centre & Planetarium, were to obtain confirmation from Dumfries and Galloway Council Common Good Fund that their funding was specifically for the LEADER project. Confirmation was received within the 60 day period and an offer of grant has been signed and returned. The applicant is due to start the project at the beginning of January.

Barcaple Multi-Use Activity Barn had been unsuccessful securing their larger grant but the Abernethy Trust Board have made up the deficit from their Legacy Funding. The project remains the same scale. Quorate approval had been received from the Group by email and an offer of grant will be prepared this week.

LB clarified that all decisions in principle from the September meeting have now been approved.

The group asked if it was clear what the criteria or process for SOSEP funding was. NH sits on one of the Thematic Groups and will pose the question at their next meeting.

The Futures Steering Group are keen to keep LEADER on people's radar in their quest for future funding post March 2020, they are considering an approach to SOSEP re interim funding.

3 Consideration of Deferred Applications

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

NH advised there were 4 applications to discuss which had been deferred for various reasons at the September meeting. The common ground being they all needed to have planning permission, with two of them required to provide further information. All information had been received and circulated to the Group, with the majority of LAG members being satisfied that the information provided satisfied the reasons for deferral at the September meeting.

Applicants/projects waiting on planning permission are now able to be awarded funding by the LAG, however they must evidence all permissions before they can make their first claim. "You will not be able to claim awarded funding without evidence of any required permissions or licences being provided to the local LEADER team.

The Group were advised that they could add this as a condition of grant. It was confirmed that all 4 applications were in the Council's planning system and should hopefully have their permissions before the March meeting.

TF asked if there were any indications of timeframes for spend of funds. Scottish Government have confirmed that all funds should be committed by December 2019 with all spend by December 2020.

It is likely there will be some underspend which could help small projects who were in a position to start and not need planning permission or staff.

P00098 Experience Galloway, total eligible expenditure £332,850.00, grant of £150,000.00 (50%) requested.



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A summary of the project was given by EG to refresh the memories of the Group. Additional information which was requested by the Group at the September meeting had been circulated and members were satisfied it had addressed the points of deferral.

CM asked if the feedback previously obtained from Visit Scotland had been addressed, it was confirmed by EG that it had been.

The Group were asked if they would like to approve the application with conditions. A show of hands was requested – all 7 members approved.

Decision: Approve with Condition

Condition: You will not be able to claim awarded funding without evidence of any required permissions or licences being provided to the local LEADER team.

P00097 a Farming Life, total eligible expenditure of £197,890.00, with a grant of £98,945.00 requested (50%).

A summary was given by EG to refresh the memories of the Group.

No comments were made. A show of hands was requested for approval, 6 approved, 1 rejected.

Decision: Approve with Condition

Condition: You will not be able to claim awarded funding without evidence of any required permissions or licences being provided to the local LEADER team.

P00102 Alpaca Your Bags, total eligible expenditure of £72,050.00 with a grant of £36,025.00 requested (50%).

A summary was given by EG to refresh the memories of the Group.

Match funding for the project has been sought from Funding Circle, confirmation has come from the applicant's accountants that it has been received although the applicant had not received their letter.

Approval in principle, subject to match funding being in place within 60 days. A show of hands was asked for – unanimous approval with 7 members approving.

Decision: Approve In Principle with Condition

Condition: You will not be able to claim awarded funding without evidence of any required permissions or licences being provided to the local LEADER team.

P00099 Cree Valley Lodges, total eligible costs of £296,000.00, with a LEADER grant of £148,000.00 (50%) requested.

A summary was given by EG to refresh the memories of the Group.

A show of hands was asked for – unanimous approval with 7 members approving.

Decision: Approve with Condition

Condition: You will not be able to claim awarded funding without evidence of any required permissions or licences being provided to the local LEADER team.



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NH advised the Group that, if all applications came through with their conditions fulfilled, and nothing comes back to the meeting, our original funding will be fully committed. Previously identified operating costs would be transferred to project funding to cover over commitment.

Elements of underspend will need to be dealt with next year. Extra projects of smaller scale and shorter periods may be supported.

Communication will be circulated to advise that our funds are fully committed, but that there may be funding become available for smaller scale projects, any enquiries from now on for larger sums will be advised of other funds the team will continue to receive EOI's and sign post accordingly.

4 AOCB

4.1 Crawick Multiverse Change Request

SG left the room while this project's change request was discussed. Details of the change request were discussed and those members who had not already responded to LB's email were encouraged to do so to ensure quorate electronic decision.

4.2 – Building the Case for a Care Campus Reference Group Meeting

JW gave an update on the meeting which she had recently attended. The feeling was that there was a very definite legacy for LEADER with this project.

More information about the project can be found on their website <https://www.carecampus.co.uk/>

4.3 - CM – advised the meeting of the recent AGM of Solway Firth Partnership and their visit to Nith Inshore Rescue, a recently funded LEADER project. They all thought it was fantastic, and very exciting to be there when they received a call out, seeing it in working mode.

4.4 - The Group were asked about locations for future meetings, to be revisited in the New Year. We will look to see if we can speak to projects to see if they could host us and perhaps give us a tour.

4.5 - NH – advised the meeting that she would be emailing in the New Year to ask for members to join a Steering Group for the Rural Awards which will be held in late 2019.

Thanks were proposed to the Chair for a very good meeting.

Date of next meeting is 13 March 2019, at 10.00am venue to be advised.

The meeting closed at 12.00pm