



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 13 March 2019, 10.00

Held at Speddoch Hall, Dumfries

Present	Peter Ross (PR) (I)Chair Sharon Glendinning (SG) (I) Clair McFarlan (CM) (I)	Tony Fitzpatrick (TF) (I) Anna Johnson (AJ) (P) Gill Dykes (GD) (I)
Leader Staff	Nicola Hill (NH) Ellen Grant (EG)	Jessie Mason (JM)
Apologies	Harry Harbottle Jenny Wilson Teresa Dougall Juliette Cooke	Rob Wells Eva Milroy McNabb Laurie Judith Johnson

Meeting commenced at 10.06am

Jimmy Anderson gave the group a tour of the Hall and it's facilities and explained how grateful the community were to have the facility. We thanked him for his time and Fiona for the provision of tea/coffee and lunch.

1 Welcome and Apologies

Peter Ross stood in as Chair as HH had other diary commitments. He welcomed all members to the meeting and thanked them for their attendance. JM advised on apologies received for the meeting, see list above. NH advised there were no changes to the LAG membership. PR confirmed that the meeting was quorate.

It should, however, be noted that being quorate at meetings is a continued issue. We are running until 2020 and decisions will need to be made and recorded at the meetings. There is still a great deal of work to do for the Group and it is important that we are quorate for each meeting. Administratively it is very difficult if members do not respond to requests for attendance at meetings.

We do not always know in advance of applications coming to the meeting, eg the Rural Youth Project Cooperation Project came forward only recently. Members asked if it was practical to reduce the number of meetings, but it was not thought this would work as there are applications and change requests which needed approval and benefitted from discussion at the face-to-face meetings. It was discussed at the December 2018 meeting and agreed to keep the scheduled dates.

NH to email all members outlining the number of areas which we still need to meet to discuss.

It was agreed that we would arrange visits with projects throughout this year for our meetings, Speddoch being the first one, to see first hand how the funding is used. Members stated they were happy to get a reminder of how important their attendance was to the meetings, as in this case, the late cooperation project would not have been able to have been dealt with had we not been quorate.



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2 Minutes of Meetings

LEADER Group meeting 12 December 2018 –

SG requested a change to reflect she had left the meeting while discussions were taking place about the Crawick Multiverse project – this change will be made. The minutes were proposed by CMcF and seconded by AJ.

There were no matters arising.

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

Experience Galloway – They have since received Planning Permission and are starting their project.

Alpaca Yours Bags – Planning Permission and Match Funding are both now in place and the project will commence

A Farming Life – Planning Permission was still be approved with the condition that the Activity Barn is removed. Although this is a slight set back, the Applicant is happy to go forward with this, instead adding an extra 'Workshop' hut. They plan to still have sheltered area for a pizza oven as well as have milking goats to provide experiential tourism. The Applicant is to submit a change request that will be sent out to the LAG for approval.

Cree Valley Lodges – The applicant had been advised by the Council's Planning Department that their Planning Application was likely to be rejected because of the spacing between the lodges and the stables. The Applicant was in discussion with their architect around whether to dispute this or to accept and change their drawings. EG will be kept up to date with this matter.

3 Consideration of Cooperation Project Rural Youth Project

NH gave a brief outline of the cooperation project. The Rural Youth Project is a movement for positive change to empower young people (18 to 28 years of age), through developing their leadership, business and enterprise skills, whilst encouraging positive activism to help to play their part in making rural places attractive and viable for young people to build their lives and their futures.

The Rural Youth Project will run until 2022 concluding in Scotland's Year of Story Telling. It is part of the project plan to create an appetite for the project to continue and secure financial viability.

At its core, the Rural Youth Project is delivered for Young People with them involved throughout the development and delivery. Financial support from LEADER for the next two years would allow the Rural Youth Project capacity both in terms of resource and time to support vulnerable young people in rural communities who are often at a disadvantage to those in urban areas. The funding will develop and deliver the next stages of the Rural Youth Project including the development and implementation of a strategy to deliver long-term financial viability through additional funding streams, including potentially a trading arm, beyond 2020 leaving a strong legacy for LEADER.

Launched in 2018 by founders and managers Jane Craigie and Rebecca Dawes of Jane Craigie Marketing in the first year achieved amongst other thing:

- 755 responses to an online survey of 60 questions (copy enclosed);



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- An Ideas **Festival, fully funded by Rural Perth & Kinross LEADER from 1-3 August 2018**, with 110 people attending, including Mairi Gougeon MSP who has endorsed the project in many of her speeches over the last six months including in Parliament, at Scottish Rural Action and in interviews with the press (copy enclosed);
- Joint Parliamentary reception at Holyrood on 3 October;
- The development of an **action plan** is based on the Rural Youth Project survey findings and the views of young people engaged with during 2018;
- Informal partnerships formed with eight organisations including Lantra Scotland, Scottish Enterprise, Scottish Rural Network, Scottish Association of Young Farmers' Clubs, Rural Youth Europe, National Federation of Young Farmers Clubs, Youth Link Scotland and media partnerships with Scottish Farmer. Digital supported by TAP.

This Co-operation project is now the next phase of a longer term programme to reach out to all areas of Scotland and enable all rural young people to participate, become empowered and become the next generation of rural leaders in Scotland.

To date, the Rural Youth Project work has been funded by Jane Craigie Marketing with the exception of some hard costs including full funding for the Rural Youth Ideas Festival in Kinross during August 2019, and a minimal amount of support for the design and printing of the Rural Youth Project report. A copy has been included with the application. It has been recognised that to enable the Rural Youth Project to grow and benefit more young people then a separate legal entity needed to be set up. This conclusion was endorsed by LEADER Co-ordinators from across Scotland and SRN. The Group were then asked to discuss and consider the application.

Some members were concerned when reading the application that it was too vague to understand what was to be delivered and where. What were the benefits for the young people of Dumfries and Galloway likely to be. There were no links to Year of Young People, or other strategic projects, no mention of Amaze Me LEADER. Although we don't want to miss out on an opportunity for the region, if there was to actually be an opportunity the members felt that we needed more information and detail to be able to score the application.

Although there was general support for the application/project, we would want to see a reviewed and revised application with more clarity required. The Group felt they would be in a better position to confirm their position. It was felt that 2 freelance staff was unrealistic if all 10 areas approached came on board. It was requested that a more refined application be submitted, once they understood the interested areas with a revised programme of events.

4 AOCB

NH gave an update on Amaze Me LEADER, it has been nominated for an Inspirational Award with the ceremony being held in Brussels in mid-April.

Lesley Ross is currently recruiting communities for this years Day of the Region. We have partners from Romania and Ireland visiting later this month.

NH – We have a small working party set up for the Rural Awards which will go ahead. Have just finished putting together a tender document for contractors to deliver the event and “document” to accompany the event in November. A meeting at the beginning of April is to be held to view the tender responses.



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A recent seminar on Smart Villages - discussion on future collaboration to take place. SG to be kept in the loop.

PR gave a brief update on meetings attended by him in the capacity of Chair

PR thanked the staff and partners for their attendance at the Scottish Rural Parliament in Stranraer. It was good PR for the town and the region.

The CLLD Chairs Group had organised a Holyrood Parliamentary Reception which was held in February 27th. He thanked the staff, LAG Members, and project partners for their attendance. Good project representation was experienced at the recent Parliamentary Reception, Alpacas, Wild Oak Woods and Restoring Annan Water and Defining Galloway Beef & Building a Case for a Care Campus. The Chairs intended the reception as the first public foray into ensuring the LEADER Approach is being considered in whatever the future holds. The next national Chairs meeting is in early May to consider next steps.

He attended a meeting of DGRI-Network Assembly in Brussels. The full report can be found on the ENRD Website. [6th Rural Networks LEADER and CLLD Sub-group Meeting](#)

He was impressed that DG and Scotland LEADER is getting right and are already implementing some of the good practice DG-Agri intend to incorporate into the next programme.

Question was raised regarding replacing LB who had recently left. No members of staff would be replaced as they leave. The money from the unused salary remains in our budget and can be used for other things linked with the delivery of the programme.

The Chair asked that the Groups thanks were passed on to Lewis and wished him well in his new role in Business and Innovation with Loreburn Housing.

Date of next meeting is 12 June 2019, at 10.00am at Catstrand.

The meeting closed at 12.00pm

Apologies were given by SG and TF for the June meeting.