



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 June 2019, 10.00

Held at Catstrand, New Galloway

Present	Harry Harbottle (HH) (I) Chair Sharon Glendinning (SG) (I) Clair McFarlan (CM) (I) Jenny Wilson (JW) (I) Teresa Dougall (TD)(I)	Rob Wells (RW)(I) Eva Milroy (EM)(I) McNabb Laurie (McNL)(P) Juliette Cooke (JC)(P)
Leader Staff	Nicola Hill (NH) Ellen Grant (EG)	Jessie Mason (JM)
Apologies	Gill Dykes Judith Johnson	Anna Johnson Tony Fitzpatrick

Meeting commenced at 10.00am

1 Welcome and Apologies

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed all members, thanking them for attending. Apologies were noted, see list above. NH advised there were no changes to the LAG membership.

2 2.1 Minutes of the previous meeting were taken as a true and accurate record of the meeting of 13 March, proposed by SG and seconded by CMcF.

2.2 Any matters arising - SG asked if there was any update on “Smart Villages”. NH advised there have been some informal discussions and there is still interest in the project. Timing is critical at present, it may be something which can be taken forward by the new Agency.

SG advised of a new fund recently launched, the Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund – Strength In Places Fund Wave 2 - <https://www.ukri.org/funding/funding-opportunities/strength-in-places-fund/>

3 10.15am Presentation to Group by GCAT representatives of projects currently funded by LEADER

Connecting in Communities and Old Smiddy Heritage and Community Hub, presentation by Brian Jones and Chris Jowsey.



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HH thanked both Brian and Chris for their very informative and entertaining presentation. It was great to see the effect LEADER Funding has on both communities and people, and the difference it is making.

4 Decisions

4.1 NH asked the Group to consider potential amalgamation of the LEADER Group and Strategic Management Group. It was pointed out that the FLAG would remain separate as they have a different administration to SMG and LEADER. All business would then come to the one meeting. SMG had discussed it at their recent meeting and felt it was a very pragmatic decision, but were keen to learn what the LEADER group thought.

The Group felt this was a good idea, as there is not as much business to discuss, but there were still decisions to be made. The group asked how many more meetings there were likely to be and they were advised that they would be required to be in place until the end of the programme, December 2020. It is crucial to keep a forward view and experience of what's developing for LEADER.

The meeting asked if the Chair would remain the same, but options were discussed and agreed that it would be best to have Peter Ross as the Chair and HH as the Vice Chair.

The Group was keen to keep the format of the meeting to include presentations from projects.

DR advised there had been a launch recently of Scottish Enterprise's Strategic Framework, link <https://www.scottish-enterprise.com/media/3058/scottish-enterprise-building-scotlands-future-today.pdf>

PR is doing a lot of work strategically and it would be good to have a full update on "what is happening" by the next meeting. It is important that we know what is going on. Fergus Ewing has made positive comments at a National level there is likely to be something to replace LEADER, but we don't have any detail.

A link for Rural Skills Scotland gives a strong focus on Rural. Rural Skills Plan - <https://news.gov.scot/news/rural-skills-plan>

4.2 Potential final round of applications.

There is likely to be a small amount of underspend, around £20,000. As there is little time left to spend the money it was suggested that we look at small scale, shovel ready projects who can spend their money quickly, delivering against programme deliverables. The Cooperation development funding option of 100% of up to £5,000



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gives groups and businesses who are looking to develop cooperations with other likeminded groups/business in Scotland, United Kingdom and EU Partners.

One last round of applications in September would be the same application process, but we would be looking for succinct applications. We have a number of EOI's which can be revisited. A deadline of August would be given in order to give the Group some time to look at them before the September meeting.

By September we will be in a position to know exactly how much money we will have to reinvest.

4.3 Change Request – Experience Galloway

A change request has been submitted from Fellend Farming Company to advise they are having to change their match funder and reduce the number of units they are wishing to install from 10 to 7. The reason for the change of match funding is because they were advised incorrectly by their bank that they would fund hospitality. It was later discovered that this was not their policy and the money was withdrawn. The project has now approached a company who deals in Asset Finance to match fund. Subsequent research suggests that the units need to provide service accommodation.

In the main the group felt it was a better idea to fit 7 units out to a higher specification. There was no more risk to LEADER to have the match funder as an asset finance company, the risk would be not to fund and the money would then be returned to LEADER. A show of hands was asked for – YES 6, ABSTAIN 2. Subject to match funding being confirmed.

5 Rural Awards – update

NH gave the group an update on Rural Awards. The steering group have agreed to appoint a consultant, Caroline Bell of "Clear as a Bell". The venue for the awards ceremony has been confirmed as GG's Yard, to be held on 5 December. The evening will be along the same lines as in previous years, with a drinks reception following by the awards Dinner.

7 Categories have been listed, 1 Enterprising Community, 2 Natural Environment, 3 Resilient Community, 4 Inclusive Community and 5 Fisheries and Coastal. Each of these will be nominated by themselves from this current programme, and the steering group will shortlist 3 nominations for each category.

6 Shining Light and 7 Legacy Awards will be agreed by an independent panel potentially made up of previous LAG members and previous members of the team.



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LAG Members were asked to consider projects/groups that could be nominated for these 2 categories and also to recommend potential judges for the other 5 categories.

6 AOCB

There were no items

Date of next meeting is 11 September 2019, at 10.00am at the Station Hotel, Dumfries.

The meeting closed at 12.00pm

A light lunch was provided.

Apologies were given by Teresa Dougall for the September meeting.