

18/07/2018
[Handwritten signature]



**NORTHUMBERLAND COAST & LOWLANDS LEADER
LOCAL ACTION GROUP (LAG)
Wednesday 20th June, 2018**

Executive LAG Members:

Ross Lowrie - Chair
Alex Wallace - Vice Chair
Jean Orr
Simon Cox
Guy Renner-Thompson
Iain Robson
Robert Brotherton
Richard Waters
Ian Moyes

LAG Member:

Carole Moyes

LEADER Staff:

Ivan Hewitt – Northumberland Coast and Lowlands Programme Officer
Christine Stevenson – LEADER Administration

Advisory Group:

David Baird - External Funding Appraisal Manager, Northumberland County Council

1. Welcome to LAG Meeting & Apologies:

Alex Wallace, Vice Chair opened the Northumberland Coast & Lowlands LEADER meeting at 18:00

CS/IH – Confirmed that meeting was quorate by Voting Members attending and by Theme

Apologies received and recorded from Executive Members: Philip Angier, Ross Weddle, Louis Fell, Angus Collingwood-Cameron, Carron Craighead and Julien Lake

18/07/2018



Apology received and recorded from Accountable Body: Heather Smith

2. D.O.I.

- Item agenda 6a - Swarland Old Hall - Robert Brotherton - Non Pecuniary

3. Draft Minutes from 23rd May's Annual General Meeting 2018:

Page 1 - Accepted

Page 2 - Accepted

Page 3 - Accepted

Page 4 - Accepted

Page 5 - Accepted

Page 6 - Accepted

Page 7 - Accepted

Page 8 - Accepted

Minutes recorded as a true record, dated and signed by Alex Wallace, Vice Chair

4. Matters Arising & Actions to include Chair's Update:

Actions from 23rd May LAG meeting:

Page 7 - CS to circulate Swarland Old Hall FA and TA for LAG decision by Written Deposition - decision was delayed, on agenda for tonight's meeting

Page 8 - IH to ask RPA for clarification on data LAG members can hold and get clarification on individual data for new GDPR - update under agenda item 5b

Page 8 - RL to investigate open/closed call - an opportunity for LAG to manage potential projects. DB, GC and IH met with RPA Relationship Manager who has fed this up the chain, waiting on response

Chairs Update:

RL - Informed LAG members the Ross Weddle had attended the Borderlands Conference as a representative of the Coast & Lowlands LAG and fed-back that there had been good enthusiasm for LEADER, and the benefits of the LEADER Approach

GRT - Good turnout at conference but nothing set in stone, will not be revenue based, but capital. Looking at big projects for all the five Council area's

AW - Three years ago initial discussions with NCC about Borderlands initiative, but initiative is with Scotland leading on Borderlands, advertised in magazines, on TV. Feels as if NCC are not focused

GRT - Minister of State for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, George Eustice MP spoke up for LEADER



RL - Animation is important. There is a NEFRAN meeting next week and IH will be attending, follow up actions from previous NEFRAN meeting
IH - Will attend and follow up

5. Programme Officers Report:

IH - Gave Programme Officers Report and informed LAG of current project budget commitments.

IR - Noted that Carnaby's claim has been outstanding a long time

IH - Yes, on their second claim agreeing a variation

Asked that LAG agree to consider project applications on the basis of these figures as of 20th June, 2018 LAG has issued GFAs totalling **£1,173,858.48 (72.12% of target spend)** with a balance of **£453,677.52** remaining to commit

Note - LAG approved and agreed Budget profile

DB - Gave LAG an update from the LEADER Operational Note (15/06/18) regarding the LEADER Programme process and that both LAG's (C&L & NULAG) have considered possibility of asking applicants to reduce their intervention rates, usually at EOI stage, on the basis of value for money

RL - Operation Note didn't answer the LAG's question, issue is intervention rates at the end of programme. LAG to carry on

IH - Appraiser can't reduce intervention rate, it does not constrain LAG

JO - LAG doing this already

RB - Minimum grant is up to LAG

a. RC&A Budget - Update:

IH - LAG's budget is spending to profile

DB - No update from RPA regarding the 18% uplift to 22%, means a budget shortfall

RL - Manage process through Operational Group Meetings with David Baird, accountable body re expenditure against Forecast-Expected-Actual

IH - At end of financial year


DB - Has an adjustment been made for the euro-sterling revaluation to 0.834?

RL - How do LAG manage budget for the next 12 months as the revaluation was good but lower than expected

AW - 18% is not enough, 22% will be, questions will LAG get same service if RC&A uplift doesn't happen. The accountable body put in bid to win work, it's not their fault it's not enough. Should LAG assist accountable body to find the 4% to support staff and programme going forward?

RL - What do LAG do at end of programme, challenging. Will Defra/RPA be funding LAGs?

AW - Proportion of funding required for RC&A. Can different parts of accountable body do more?

18/07/2018


RL - Ask HS to facilitate a meeting with JR and Richard Wearmouth

AW - Positive move to include the portfolio lead

DB - We are part of Economy & Regeneration Service now

ACTION - IH to organise a meeting with HS, JR and RW to discuss rural development and the gap in LEADER RC&A

b. GDPR - Update:

IH - RPA have issued a guidance note which states that LAG members must retain information securely and when no longer needed then destroy securely

6. FA's for consideration by Executive:

Swarland Old Hall

DORA Ref:108229

LEADER Priority Theme 3 - Support for Rural Tourism

Total Project Cost - £93,318.20

LEADER Grant Request - £37,327.28

Summary - The project will see the establishment of 2 glamping pods next to the existing lodges on the farm. The pods will be finished to a high quality and include a kitchenette and ensuite facilities to work alongside the award winning lodges currently on offer by the business. This again will reduce the financial burden of the farming business by allowing Mrs Proctor to change her main source of income from the farm, to her accommodation business full time

LAG Discussions:

LAG members discussed and considered Full Application and Technical Appraisal Application

RL - Proposed LAG vote

LAG Decision:

- 6 Vote - Yes
- 2 Vote - No
- 0 Vote Abstain, Chair did not vote

LAG Decision - Full Application Approved

b. Acton Chase Glamping

DORA Ref:107860

LEADER Priority Theme 3 - Support for Rural Tourism

Total Project Cost - £147,635.69

LEADER Grant Request - £59,356.00



Summary - The aim of the project is to diversify a farm by developing an under used caravan site at Old Felton Farm into a glamping business.

Grant is sought to purchase and install two glamping pods and a tree house along with a hot tub for each. Touring pitches will be created to enable four touring vans to stay at any one time. Grant is also sought to undertake groundworks, electrical works and sewerage works to enable 2 FTEs to be created

LAG Discussions:

LAG Discussions:

LAG members discussed and considered Full Application and Technical Appraisal Application

RL - Proposed LAG vote

LAG Decision:

- 6 Vote - Yes
- 0 Vote - No
- 1 Vote Abstain, Chair did not vote
- Robert Brotherton gave Declaration of Interest

LAG Decision - Full Application Approved

6. Communications Working Group - Update:

RB - Working up project visits with MP Anne Marie Trevelyan, can LAG members suggest projects to visit?

SC - Sivermoor Swingers would be a good project

IR - Bertrams of Warkworth

JO - Whitehouse Farm in Morpeth

RB - It is good to hear that LEADER is getting a good reputation at meetings and the Borderlands Conference. It would be good to get TV coverage, currently working on a press article for the Northumberland Gazette

RL - CLA won't support LEADER

DB - Do we copy communications to the LEP (Local Enterprise Partnership)?

IH - Not currently

7. Evaluation Working Group - Update:

SC - The evaluation group is working well and has complete 21 project visits

RL - Have there been any problems highlighted?

CM - Found it a good experience and projects have mentioned support from programme staff



- RW - Some applicants have stated that in initial EOI presentations they found LAG meetings with up to 15 members a lot to speak too
- SC - LEADER application forms have a lot of repetition, very time consuming
- RL - Post Brexit future we don't have to take up so much bureaucracy
- DB - It's UK, not EU bureaucracy
- RL - Would be good to gather all information and make up a separate report from the evaluation report
- SC - Happy to do so
- CM - One applicant said that the FA form helped them focus on their business management, that's positive
- RB - Could we ask a LAG member from NULAG to attend a visit?

9. A.O.B:

- IH - Alpha Strength & Fitness Ltd and Commercial Kitchen Refurbishment projects are ready for the LAG to discuss
- RL - Send out FA and TA's, give timescale for comments, if no issues raised LAG can vote by written deposition
- IH - Hauxley Wildlife Discovery Centre are looking to submit a Coastal Revival Fund application for car park works, to extend car park and path improvements
- DB - In the letter the NCC have received they want to tarmac over the car park that LEADER funded
- IH - HWLDC have been asked for additionality and have not submitted their application yet. Have asked NCC to be their accountable body
- DB - When they wrote to NCC to ask if they would be the accountable body they did not mention LEADER funding
- AW - Victim of their own success
- DB - The applicant was asked as part of applying to LEADER if the specifications were what they wanted
- RL - It was a lot of money for what they wanted to do
- JO - Druridge Bay was a main road
- RL - There is a potential for clawback and state aid issues
- DB - Expensive hardcore
- IH - HWLDC can't claim double outputs, they have been asked for a statement and the LAG may be asked for a formal response
- IR - The Coastal Revival Fund focuses on capital projects
- RL - It is the LAGs role to scrutinise
- DB - RPAs compliance team will be involved
- ACTION: IH to feed back ongoing information to the LAG**

18/07/2018



For information:

AW - NALC are holding their AGM on September 29th, 2018 at The Sill in Hexham with invitations to Parish Councillors and guest speakers. This is a good opportunity for rural Northumberland

JO - Wednesday 27th June on BBC 1 Panorama programme called Northern Dreams and Failed Schemes - discussions and investigations why Northern Power House for North of England failed

Chair, Ross Lowrie closed the Coast & Lowlands LEADER LAG meeting at 19:40