

**NORTHUMBERLAND COAST & LOWLANDS LEADER
LOCAL ACTION GROUP (LAG)
Wednesday 20th March 2019**

Executive LAG Members:

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

LAG Member:

Carole Moyes

LEADER Staff:

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

Advisory Group:

David Baird - External Funding Appraisal Manager, Northumberland County Council

1. Welcome to LAG Meeting & Apologies:

Ross Lowrie, Chair opened the Northumberland Coast & Lowlands LEADER meeting at 18:00

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


Apologies received and recorded from Executive LAG Members: Iain Robson, Julien Lake Carron Craighead and Angus Collingwood - Cameron

Apology received and recorded from Accountable Body: Heather Smith

2. D.O.I.

None recorded

3. Draft Minutes from 20th February, 2019:



Page 1 - Accepted

Page 2 - Accepted

Page 3 - Accepted

Page 4 - Accepted

Page 5 - Accepted

The minutes were agreed as a true record by Alex Wallace, Vice Chair, dated and signed by Ross Lowrie, Chair.

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

Actions from meeting 20th February:

Page 3 - IH to follow up and report back at next LAG meeting on project underspends - Completed

Page 3 - IH to discuss EOI Reserve List with Chair and Vice Chair - Completed

Page 5 - CS to liaise with projects re-evaluation visits - Completed

Chair's Update:

RL - Work is ongoing through the Evaluation Working Group and the Communications Working Group members

5. Programme Officers Report:

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

Asked that LAG agree to consider project applications on the basis of figures as of 20th March 2019. The LAG has issued GFAs totalling **£1,617,358.42 (92.23% of revised budget spend)** with a balance of **£148,126.08** remaining to commit against revised allocation. EOIs are all at risk due to limited time frame and allocation

RL - Asked to revisit EOI Reserve List and requested LAG members views as there could be National Underspend available but all applicants need to understand through clear communications that there is currently no budget availability

IH - Hoping to draw down funds into Northumberland

DB - From a programme perspective all applicants need to understand that funds are limited

RL - Still an opportunity for EOI applications

a. RC&A Update:


IH - LAG is spending to profile budget forecast until end of December 2019. Potentially some underspends in RC&A budget to vire into projects

RL - To be discussed at the Operational Group Meeting on Monday 25th March 2019

b. LAG meeting plans and spending March - December 2019:

IH - LAG need to consider moving forward - answered under 5a by RL

6. RPA & LEADER Update:



DB - Informed by the RPA that they will be completing an Attestation Report later in the year which will involve a programme visit, around mid to end of May.

RPA are happy with the performance from NULAG and Coast & Lowlands as both programmes have been delivered and managed well

SC - Asked if there was an update on project Hauxley Wildlife Discovery Centre

DB - No update, will be dealt with by the RPA

AW - Advised LAG that LEADER applications may depend on other deadline/s. LAG should be mindful

7. EOs for consideration by Executive:

Ellington Juniors

DORA Ref: 113669

LEADER Priority Theme 4 - Support for Rural Services

Total Project Cost - £192,049.00

LEADER Grant Request - £76,819.00

Summary - The project will provide a 3G artificial pitch in Ellington for use by juniors football club for matches and training

LAG members welcomed Paul Scott and Sarah Gair on behalf of Ellington Juniors who gave a short presentation. Chair thanked applicants who then left the meeting. LAG members then considered and discussed the Expression of Interest and the Technical Appraisal Application

RL - Proposed LAG members vote:

6 Vote - Yes

1 Vote - No

0 Vote - Abstain, Chair did not vote

LAG Decision - Expression of Interest Progressed to Full Application

LAG Note - Applicant is made very clear on availability of funding and the prospect of success

b. Sandstell Fishing Shiel

DORA Ref: 113668

LEADER Priority Theme 4 - Support for Rural Services

Total Project Cost - £77,936.00

LEADER Grant Request - £69,586.00

Summary - The project will convert an old abandoned building (fishing shiel) into a bunk house for walkers and cyclists and a community run cafe/meeting room
LAG members welcomed Mike Greener on behalf of Sandstell Fishing Shiel who gave a short presentation. Chair thanked applicant who then left the meeting.



LAG members then considered and discussed the Expression of Interest and the Technical Appraisal Application

RL - Proposed LAG members vote:

1 Vote - Yes

7 Vote - No

0 Vote - Abstain, Chair voted

LAG Decision:

Expression of Interest - Rejected

8. FAs for consideration by Executive:

Amble Marina Limited - Improving Shorebased Facilities

DORA Ref: 113013

LEADER Priority Theme 4 - Support for Rural Services

Total Project Cost - £35,376.00

LEADER Grant Request - £15,264.74

Summary - Grant is sought to purchase equipment/items - a crane, storage containers, heavy duty trolleys, a canopy (wet weather shelter) and 'cradles' to rest out of water boats on that will enable 1 FTE to be created and the marina/fishing fleet to remain in Amble

LAG Discussions:

The LAG considered and discussed the Full Application and Technical Appraisal Application

RL asked LAG members to vote:

7 Vote - Yes

0 Vote - No

0 Vote - Abstain, Chair did not vote

LAG Decision:

Full Application Approved. Technical Appraisal dated and signed by Ross Lowrie, Chair

b. Berwick Rugby Club

DORA Ref:113012

LEADER Priority Theme 4 - Support for Rural Services

Total Project Cost - £49,686.19

LEADER Grant Request - £39,748.95

Summary - Grant is sought to improve and extend the kitchen and bar facilities which will increase the income generating capacity of the club and to safeguard 2 current jobs and enable 0.125 new FTE jobs to be created

LAG Discussions:

The LAG considered and discussed the Full Application and Technical Appraisal Application



RL asked LAG members to vote:

7 Vote - Yes

0 Vote - No

0 Vote - Abstain, Chair did not vote

LAG Decision:

Full Application Approved. Technical Appraisal dated and signed by Ross Lowrie, Chair

9. Communications Working Group - Update:

RB - Held Communications Working Group meeting at Chair's house, organising and planning for LAG Event is ongoing. Comms group meeting after LAG meeting and further updates will follow

Note - Add preparation time for LAG Event as an item agenda for May's LAG meeting

10. Evaluation Working Group - Update:

SC - provided his report and confirmed the following project evaluations are:

- Outfield Renovation - deferred until May 2019
- Alnmouth Huts (Shoreside Shepherd Huts) - Friday 22nd March
- Adderstone Mains
- Swarland Old Hall Glamping Pods
- Expansion of Celtic Crafts

RL - Thanked all members of the Evaluation Working Group for their continued work and support

ACTION: CS to liaise with projects and arrange further visits.

Next meeting: Wednesday 17th April 2019 - venue Cresswell Village Hall

Ross Lowrie, Chair closed the Northumberland Coast & Lowlands LEADER LAG meeting at 7.35pm.

