

12/12/2018.

Alex Wallace



**NORTHUMBERLAND COAST & LOWLANDS LEADER
LOCAL ACTION GROUP (LAG)
Wednesday 12th December, 2018**

Executive LAG Members:

Alex Wallace - Vice Chair
Simon Cox
Richard Waters
Ian Moyes
Robert Brotherton
Julien Lake
Angus Collingwood-Cameron

LAG Member:

Carole Moyes

LEADER Staff:

Ivan Hewitt – Northumberland Coast and Lowlands LEADER Programme Officer
Gillian Cowell – Northumberland Uplands LEADER Programme Officer

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

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

Apologies received and recorded from Executive Members: Ross Lowrie, Ross Weddle, Philip Angier, Iain Robson, Jean Orr, Guy Renner-Thompson and Carron Craighead.

IH presented apology from Christine Stevenson due to illness.

Apology received and recorded from Accountable Body: Heather Smith

2. D.O.I.

No declarations of interest recorded.

12/12/2018

Alex Wallace

3. Draft Minutes from 21st November, 2018:

Page 1 - Accepted

Page 2 - IM noted that Item 8 was incorrect and should have read 'Credence Brewing'

Page 3 - Accepted

Page 4 - Accepted

Page 5 - Accepted

Page 6 - Accepted

Page 7 - CM noted that the publication should have read 'Northumberland News'

The amendments were noted and the minutes agreed as a true record, dated and signed by Alex Wallace, Vice Chair

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

Actions to report from 21st November LAG meeting:

Comms Team follow ups - IH & RB had meeting with Lorraine Hindhaugh re: publicity

Event - RB had circulated action plan but still work to be done on guest list. Provisional date still 23 January 2019.

Chair's Update:

There was no update from the Chair in RL absence.

DB also confirmed there was no further update from RPA on LEADER programme.

5. Programme Officers Report to include RC&A Update:

IH - Gave Programme Officers report and informed LAG of current project budget commitments and confirmed funds available to commit to all EOIs coming to the meeting this evening. There are 8 FAs in process and a further 4 EOIs ready for consideration at this meeting. Enquiries are still coming in and the projects that are in delivery are all going well.

DB - added a note of caution about the level of over-programming and reminded that this could lead to the LAG having to decline full applications at a late stage once funds are fully committed.

6. EOI Presentations & 7. Decisions by the Executive:

a. Longhorsley MUGA

DORA Ref: 113020

LEADER Priority Theme 4 - Support for Rural Services

Total Project Cost £30,000.00

LEADER Grant Request £30,000.00

12/12/2018
H Wallace

Summary - The aim of the project is to refurbish an outdated MUGA in the centre of the village which is used by local children and community groups. They are looking for £30k grant funding.

LAG Discussion:

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

LAG Noted: The EOI appraisal recommended rejection based on value for money.

AW - Asked LAG members to vote:

- 5 Vote - Yes
- 0 Vote - No
- 1 Vote - Abstain, Chair did not vote

LAG Decision:

LAG Executive Decision - EOI progressed to FA

Process - Technical Appraisal dated and signed by Vice Chair

Special Conditions:

Applicant to reduce the LEADER grant request and also to address the 'like for like' issue

Project to display appropriate LEADER logos in business, website and advertising

Applicant to be aware that the FA process is competitive and subject to funding availability.

b.Preston House B&B

DORA Ref:113018

LEADER Priority Theme 3 - Support for Tourism

Total Project Cost £10,700.00

LEADER Grant Request £41,300.00

Summary - Re-development of redundant farm buildings into 6 "chalet" rooms to create new visitor accommodation at existing boutique B&B business.

LAG discussion:

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

AW - Asked LAG members to vote:

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

LAG Decision:

LAG Executive Decision - EOI endorsed to FA

Process - Technical Appraisal dated and signed by Vice Chair

Special Conditions:

Applicant to clarify the actual FTE and the cost per job.

Applicant to be aware that the FA process is competitive and subject to funding availability

12/12/2018

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Project to display appropriate LEADER logos in business, website and advertising

c.Whitehouse Farm Nursery Development

DORA Ref:113225

LEADER Priority Theme 2 - Support for Micro Enterprise

Total Project Cost £11,000.00

LEADER Grant Request £4,000.00

Summary - This project will expand the services of The Nursery to include holiday club and wrap around care for children aged 5 - 11. Using land already secured in their lease, they will create a learning environment including a log cabin classroom and outdoor garden resources. During school holidays they will provide care between the hours of 8am and 6pm to enable parents to work

LAG discussions:

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

AW asked the LAG to vote:

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

LAG Decision:

LAG Executive Decision - EOI progressed to FA.

Process - Technical Appraisal dated and signed by Vice Chair

LAG Noted:

Applicant to be aware that the FA process is competitive and subject to funding availability

Project to display appropriate LEADER logos in business, website and advertising

d.NTC - The Dovecote Centre Refurbishment

DORA Ref:113227

LEADER Priority Theme 2 - Support for Micro Enterprise

Total Project Cost £128,500.00

LEADER Grant Request £102,800.00

Summary - This project will provide NTC Touring Theatre Company with a newly refurbished Cultural Hub. The Dovecote Centre (Old Victorian School) will become a building suitable for community use, as a local Theatre, small Cinema and community space as well as being a base for NTC.

LAG Discussions:

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

LAG Noted - They did not accept the appraiser's recommendation to possibly consider under Culture & Heritage or Rural Services.

12/12/2018.

A Wallace

AW - Asked LAG members to vote:

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

LAG Decision:

LAG Executive Decision - EOI rejected on the grounds of value for money

Process - Technical Appraisal dated and signed by Vice Chair

8. Full Application updates to Executive:

Lesbury Village Hall - planning has been approved and the FA appraisal is in process

Joy of Care - delayed due to planning but is now approved and progressing

Northumberland County Zoo - expecting planning approval this week and ready for appraisal

IH - reported that all three are expected to come forward by February 2019 or sooner.

Barn on the Bay (grant request £45k) carries the greatest potential risk as there is a general lack of clarity about their business model and the situation regarding planning. IH to contact for updated information.

DB - stated that it should be reiterated to all applicants that LEADER is a competitive process and their application could still be gazumped if others are ready and in a position to advance through the process more quickly.

9. Communications Working Group

RB - reported that the 3 press releases prepared for Northumberland News were rejected as they need to be apolitical. They will now be aimed at the Gazette & Herald.

RB also reported on the meeting held with IH and Lorraine Hindhaugh re: the proposed event and also production of a glossy end of programme report.

C&L LAG Event

Although time may be tight RB still keen to progress the event on 23 January 2019 as planned at Carnaby's. The style of the event will be an awards ceremony so the LAG will need to pick front runners. SC, being conscious of the timescale, questioned whether this could be delivered in time? IH responded that one of RL's key aims in holding the event was to highlight the launch of the consultation on SPF. However no date has yet been given for the consultation and Peter Jackson's availability is in doubt as he has prior diary commitments for that day with North of Tyne. In the light of this IH suggested that C&L LAG arrange a small briefing session for key players on the local political stage by the end of January (or as soon as the SPF consultation launch date is known) and then plan to have an

12/12/2018

Alex Wallace

awards and celebration event at the end of the programme. AW said that IH needs to let RL know that the 23rd Jan is not a realistic date. DB suggested that a joint briefing for Peter Jackson by RL and Terry Carroll (NULAG Chair) under a unified banner of 'Northumberland LEADER' might be a stronger voice in bidding for any possible transition funding from NCC. AW offered thanks to RB for all his work on event planning and communications.

ACTION: IH to keep members briefed on developments around the event & SPF consultation.

ACTION: IH to contact RL to update him on the discussions surrounding the event and SPF.

10. Evaluation Working Group:

SC - reported that there were no projects currently on the stocks awaiting evaluation visits. However they are expecting Smailes Secure Storage and Warkworth Cricket Club Mower to be ready for evaluation in the second half of January 2019.

11. A.O.B:

- a) IH is still getting enquiries and when not able to offer LEADER as an option will signpost to other potential funding
- b) Alpha Gym in Amble have an underspend of around £5k so they may ask for a variation to spend up to their full allocation.

Alex Wallace, Vice Chair closed the Coast & Lowlands LEADER LAG meeting at 20:33 and wished all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Next meeting: Wednesday 23rd January 2019 - Alnwick Youth Hostel