

21/11/2018

Alex Wallace



**NORTHUMBERLAND COAST & LOWLANDS LEADER
LOCAL ACTION GROUP (LAG)
Wednesday 21st November, 2018**

Executive LAG Members:

Ross Lowrie - Chair
Simon Cox
Richard Waters
Ian Moyes
Robert Brotherton
Jean Orr
Guy Renner-Thompson
Carron Craighead

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:

Ross Lowrie, 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: Alex Wallace, Ross Weddle, Angus Collingwood-Cameron, Philip Angier, Iain Robson, Julien Lake and Louis Fell. IH presented apology from Christine Stevenson due to illness.

Apology received and recorded from Accountable Body: Heather Smith

2. D.O.I.

Simon Cox for Item 7 - EOI Reserve List Prioritisation for Morwick Farm - Non-Pecuniary

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Ian Moyes for Item 7 - EOI Reserve List Prioritisation for Holy Island Gin Distillery - Non-Pecuniary (but will not vote)

3. Draft Minutes from 24th October, 2018:

Page 1 - Accepted

Page 2 - Accepted

Page 3 - Accepted

Page 4 - Accepted

Page 5 - Accepted

Page 6 - Accepted

Minutes agreed as a true record, dated and signed by Ross Lowrie, Chair

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

Actions to report from 24th October LAG meeting:

LAG members sub-group met to prioritise EOIs to bring forward to this meeting.

DB reported that he had requested an extension from the RPA which had been approved to 30 June 2019

Chair's Update:

RL - reported his attendance at the most recent NEFRAN meeting where there was a discussion about lobbying to help shape the proposed Shared Prosperity Fund. He articulated his concerns that the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), born from a city region perspective, that their focus is predominantly urban. There has been little engagement during this LEADER programme due to a lack of staff resources. RL said that, as SPF would come through the LEP, now is a good time to try and influence them.

RL - had also attended a LEADER meeting at the RPA in Newcastle and said that they reported a mixed picture nationally with an overall spend of 66% of budget. C&L are well into the upper half as their spend is around 90%. He reported that a national budget of £124 million is shared between 79 LEADER groups and that they are collectively forecasting 3879 jobs - an average of 50 jobs per LAG. C&L are forecasting much higher job creation than the national average. Again the average national cost per job is £21k but in C&L the cost per job is only £12k.

Extra funds are not an option at the moment as the LAG is going to focus on spending their remaining allocation but will then review to see if this could be an option.

RB - asked what the NEFRAN view was of the future for LEADER style funding?

RL responded that NEFRAN are broadly supportive but also have an eye on other potential funds as all members are stakeholders with a variety of interests. The view appears to be that ultimately it is all money that will be coming into the patch.

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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 4 FAs in process and 2 more EOIs in appraisal. Enquiries are still coming in and the projects that are in delivery are all going well.

RL - suggested that another 5 EOIs could be brought to the next meeting.

SC - asked if Whitehouse Farm are on the reserve list. IH will follow up and RL proposed that selection of EOIs could be done by email outside the meeting.

RB - asked what had happened to the Walled Garden at Bamburgh Castle and IH confirmed that the application was withdrawn.

6. EOI Presentations:

a. Holy Island Gin Distillery

DORA Ref: 113014

LEADER Priority Theme 2 - Support for Micro Enterprise

Total Project Cost - £78,165.01

LEADER Grant Request - £31,266.00

Summary - The aim of the project is to fund a 10m x 5m extension on The Ship Inn and to purchase a 250 litre still to allow them to take the gin business to the next level.

LAG Discussions:

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

RL - Proposed LAG members vote

LAG Decision:

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

LAG Executive Decision - EOI Application - Approved

Process - Chair signed and dated Technical Appraisal Form

Special Conditions:

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. Berwick Rugby Club

DORA Ref: 113012

LEADER Priority Theme 4 - Support for Rural Services

Total Project Cost - £80,000.00

LEADER Grant Request - £64,000.00

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Summary - the club are looking to expand their hospitality facilities and surface the car parking area. It is hire income from these facilities that enables the club to be sustainable and subsidise membership and transport for Colts

LAG Discussion:

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

RL - Proposed LAG members vote for project "as applied for"

- 0 Vote - Yes
- 4 Vote - No + Chair
- 3 Vote - Abstain

RL - Proposed LAG members vote for the project without the car park or drainage

SC - Seconded the proposal

RL - Asked LAG members to vote:

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

LAG Decision:

LAG Executive Decision - EOI Application - Approved

Process - Chair signed and dated Technical Appraisal Form

Special Conditions:

The LAG will only consider the project elements excluding the car park drainage.

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

c.Amble Marina Ltd

DORA Ref: 113013

LEADER Priority Theme 2 - Support for Micro Enterprise

Total Project Cost - £246,750.00

LEADER Grant Request - £98,700.00

Summary - the owners are looking to develop their boatyard facilities by purchasing a crane, shelter, trolleys etc. and also to increase the number of berths on the current commercial fishing pontoon

LAG Discussions:

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

ALL - LAG discussed the EOI as submitted

RL - Asked LAG members to vote for the project 'as applied for':

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

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GR-T - can we counter propose?

RL - yes

IH - LAG could consider the land based elements only

RL - Proposed LAG progress the EOI to FA for the land based elements only - not electrical supply, finger berths or piling. And with advice that project provides value for money through directly created jobs

ALL - LAG agreed to consider on that basis

LAG voted

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

LAG Decision:

LAG Executive Decision - EOI progressed to FA for land based elements only

Process - Chair signed and dated Technical Appraisal Form

LAG Noted:

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

d.Preston House - will be invited to the December LAG meeting

e.Morwick House Dairy Farm

DORA Ref: 113016

LEADER Priority Theme 1 - Support for Farm Productivity

Total Project Cost - £19,500.00

LEADER Grant Request - £7,800.00

Summary - the project aims to further diversify the farm's offer by purchasing and installing a raw milk dispensing machine for 24 hour access by the public. The farm currently received 33p per litre of milk from the wholesaler but can charge £1 to £1.50 per litre for bottling by hand.

LAG Discussions:

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

RL - Asked LAG members to vote:

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

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LAG Decision:

LAG Executive Decision - EOI progressed to FA

Process - Chair signed and dated Technical Appraisal Form

Special Conditions:

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.

8. FA for consideration by Executive:

Credence Brewing Production and Product Range Expansion

DORA Ref:103738

LEADER Priority Theme 2 - Support for Micro Enterprise

Total Project Cost - £32,632.90

LEADER Grant Request - £13,953.16

Summary - to support a project to purchase a bottle/keg filler and carbonator.

LAG Discussion:

LAG members discussed and considered Full Application and Technical Appraisal Application

RL - Asked LAG members to vote:

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

LAG Decision:

LAG Executive Decision - Full Application - Approved

Process - Technical Appraisal dated and signed by Chair

Special Condition:

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

9. Communications Working Group

RB reported 3 press releases prepared for Northumberland Gazette:

- Alnwick Markets
- Whitehouse Farm Nursery
- A-M Trevelyan visit to Carroll's Heritage Potatoes

ACTION: IH to follow up the press releases with a call to Northumberland Gazette to make sure they take them up.

C&L LAG Event

AW, RL, GR-T & RB met to discuss what they can realistically achieve. The main aim was to influence the future of a successor funding programme on the same model as LEADER

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post-Brexit. An event is being planned for 23 January with an Awards theme. Peter Jackson and Paul Robinson to attend but the net needs to be cast wider to attract other key stakeholders. Aiming for invites to be issued by 15 December.

Venues - RB has checked out Rigg & Furrow but it is not big enough. RL is visiting the Northumberland Country Zoo to check out the facilities. CM suggested Carnaby's as a possible venue

ACTION: IH/GR-T to work together on dates and guest list

ACTION: All - to review and comment on info provided by RB

10. Evaluation Working Group:

Two projects visited in the last week by IM/CM/SC - South Berrington and Alnwick Rugby Club

All completed projects (29 in total) have now had evaluation visits.

RL is looking for human stories behind the evaluation.

11. A.O.B:

- a) It was noted that Christine Stevenson was off sick and a card was circulated for signature
- b) SC commented that Warkworth Cricket Club had not yet claimed. IH reported that the claim was in process

Ross Lowrie, Chair closed the Coast & Lowlands LEADER LAG meeting at 20:27