

21/02/2018
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**NORTHUMBERLAND COAST & LOWLANDS LEADER
LOCAL ACTION GROUP (LAG)
Wednesday 24th January, 2018**

Executive LAG Members:

Ross Lowrie - Chair
Alex Wallace - Vice Chair
Jean Orr
Simon Cox
Richard Waters
Robert Brotherton
Philip Angier
Carron Craighead
Iain Robson
Ian Moyes

LAG Member:

Carol Moyes

LEADER Staff:

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

Advisory Group:

David Baird - External Funding Appraisal Manage, Northumberland County Council

1.Welcome to LAG Meeting & Apologies:

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

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

Apologies received and recorded from Executive Members: Ross Weddle, Louis Fell, Guy Renner-Thompson, Julien Lake and Angus Collingwood-Cameron
Apology received and recorded from Accountable Body: Heather Smith

21/02/2018



2. D.O.I's Recorded:

Iain Robson

- item agenda 4b Full Application - Cresswell Village Hall - Personal

Carron Craighead

- item agenda 5d Expression of Interest - Cattle Handling Hub - Personal

Robert Brotherton

- item agenda 5e Expression of Interest - Hebron Fishing Lakes - Personal

3. Project Expenditure Update:

IH - Gave Programme Officers Report and informed LAG of current project budget commitments at 56% of allocation. Asked that LAG agree to consider project applications on the basis of these figures

As of 24th January 2018 LAG has issued GFAs totalling **£916,446.09** with a balance of **£711,089.91** remaining to commit.

Note - LAG approved and agreed Budget profile

4. FAs for consideration by Executive:

a. Craster Safety Service

DORA Ref:106314

LEADER Priority Theme 4 - Support for Rural Services

Total Project Cost - £14,736.00

LEADER Grant Request - £13,262.40

Project Summary - The project will create 300m² playground area with a reinforced grass matting surface which will make the area safer for children, better drained, greener and more aesthetically pleasing to residents and visitors.

LAG Discussions:

LAG members considered and discussed the Full Application and Technical Appraisal provided.

LAG Decision:

- 9 Votes - Yes
- 0 Vote - No
- 0 Vote - Abstain, Chair did not vote

LAG Executive Decision – Full Application Approved

Process - Chair signed and dated Technical Appraisal Form

b. Cresswell Village Hall

DORA Ref:107132



21/02/2018

LEADER Priority Theme 4 - Support for Rural Services

Total Project Cost - £69,604.55

LEADER Grant Request - £55,683.64

Project Summary - The project is to upgrade the village hall in the village of Cresswell. The hall currently has a number of local users for events and activities but is keen to attract new customers. Within the village is a HLF funded restoration project of a 15th century pele tower. It is anticipated that the upgraded village hall could be the location for a heritage and education centre complimenting the pele tower where local schools and the wider community can learn about the pele tower and the supporting community archaeology and research projects.

LAG Discussions:

LAG members considered and discussed the Full Application and Technical Appraisal provided.

LAG Decision:

- 8 Votes - Yes
- 0 Vote - No
- 0 Vote - Abstain, Chair did not vote
- Iain Robson - Declaration of Interest

LAG Executive Decision – Full Application Approved

Process - Chair signed and dated Technical Appraisal Form

LAG Advisory Note - Applicant to promote LEADER funding on all promotional boards

c. Elite Fitness Gym and Health Club

DORA Ref:107882

LEADER Priority Theme 2 - Support for Micro Enterprise

Total Project Cost - £61,593.24

LEADER Grant Request - £24,637.30

Project Summary - LEADER funding is sought to undertake capital works to the building (creating changing rooms, showers, studios etc) and to purchase gym equipment.

IH - Technical Appraisal still with the RPA for Quality Check (QC), there are no significant changes from the EOI stage

PA - Good value for money project. TA scored well, feels good to support

AW - Agrees with PA's comments

RL - Planning permission approved

IH - Asked LAG for decision by Written Deposition once TA is released by RPA



21/02/2018

RL - Asked LAG if agreed to vote by Written Deposition

LAG Decision - Agreed that LAG vote by Written Deposition

5. Presentations of EOIs received by LAG Executive:

a. Murton Whitehouse Farm - Agenda for next LAG meeting

b. Longhoughton Sports and Community Centre

DORA Ref:108588

LEADER Priority Theme 4 - Support for Rural Services

Total Project Cost - £19,943.18

LEADER Grant Request - £15,954.54

Summary - This project will provide improved catering facilities for Longhoughton Community and Sports Centre to enable the centre to provide better facilities for the local community including a Warm Hub.

LAG members welcomed Adrian Hinchcliffe on behalf of Longhoughton Sports and Community Centre who gave a short presentation of the project. Applicants left meeting.

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

LAG Decision:

- 8 Votes - Yes
- 0 Votes - No
- 1 Votes - Abstain, Chair did not vote

LAG Executive Decision – Expression of Interest Approved to Full Application

Strategic Fit - Scored 2

Process - Chair signed and dated Technical Appraisal Form

c. New Cultivation System

DORA Ref:108580

LEADER Priority Theme 1 - Support for Farm Productivity

Total Project Cost - £41,090.00

LEADER Grant Request - £16,436.00

Project Summary - To purchase a new seed drill. This is a drill that will sow cereal seed into a narrow strip of land leaving the rest uncultivated reducing the impact on the soil.

LAG members welcomed Charles Pearson on behalf of New Cultivation System who gave a short presentation of the project. Applicants left meeting.

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



LAG Decision:

- 7 Votes - Yes
- 2 Votes - No
- 0 Votes - Abstain, Chair did not vote

LAG Executive Decision – Expression of Interest Approved to Full Application

Strategic Fit - Scored 2

Special Conditions:

- Clearer case of employment. Guidance on FTE
- Clarity on part exchange costs

Process - Chair signed and dated Technical Appraisal Form

d. Cattle Handling Hub

DORA Ref: 108585

LEADER Priority Theme 1 - Support for Farm Productivity

Total Project Cost - £52,700.00

LEADER Grant Request - £21,080.00

Project Summary - Create and develop a cattle handling hub that includes concrete flooring, roofing and holding gates. The project will do this by creating a new covered area solely for the handling of livestock whilst monitoring their condition and welfare. The project will also fund equipment including an Electro-Hydraulic Crush, shedding race, EID equipment, weigh cells and LED lighting.

LAG members welcomed Charles Pearson on behalf of New Cultivation System who gave a short presentation of the project. Applicants left meeting.

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

LAG Decision:

- 8 Votes - Yes
- 0 Votes - No
- 0 Votes - Abstain, Chair did not vote
- Carron Craighead Declared an Interest

LAG Executive Decision – Expression of Interest Approved to Full Application

Strategic Fit - Scored 3

Special Condition:

- Increased income generated

Process - Chair signed and dated Technical Appraisal Form

e. Hebron Fishing Lakes

DORA Ref: 108732

21/02/2018
Alh

LEADER Priority Theme 3 - Support for Rural Tourism

Total Project Cost - £43,100.00

LEADER Grant Request - £17,240.00

Project Summary - To design and create a new fishing lake, landscape, construct infrastructure and stock with coarse fish.

LAG members welcomed Nick Craigs on behalf of Hebron Fishing Lakes who gave a short presentation of the project. Applicants left meeting.

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

LAG Decision:

- 0 Votes - Yes
- 8 Votes - No
- 0 Votes - Abstain, Chair did not vote
- Robert Brotherton - Declaration of Interest

LAG Executive Decision – Expression of Interest Rejected

Strategic Fit - Scored 1

Reasons:

- Poor value for money
- Unsustainable business model as farm diversification
- Concerns with outputs

Process - Chair signed and dated Technical Appraisal Form

6. A.O.B:

IM - Thanked IH for attending Foxton Business Club Breakfast meeting

Ross Lowrie, Chair closed the Coast & Lowlands LEADER LAG meeting at 20:08