



**NORTHUMBERLAND UPLANDS LEADER
LOCAL ACTION GROUP (LAG)
Thursday 4th October 2018
Longframlington Memorial Hall
5.30pm - 8.30pm**

Present: Terry Carroll, Andrew Poad, Mike Murray, Louise Kirkwood, Barbara Sexon, Alan Sharp, Tom Johnston, Ruth Dickinson (NNPA), David Baird (NCC), Gillian Cowell (Programme Officer), Louise McCreery (Admin Officer)

1. **Apologies:** Steve Jopling, Nicola Bell, Anthony Murray, Jeremy Phillipson
2. **Declaration of Interest**
AP declared an interest in Hearth at Horsley as he works with one of the people presenting the application. He agreed to leave the room during the discussion.
3. **Draft LAG Minutes from meeting on 11 September 2018**
Minutes agreed as a true and accurate record.

4. **Matters Arising & Actions**

October Event

The Eventbrite page is now live and there are approx 50 confirmed attendees, not including speakers. GC advised she has contacted Lord Curry but he has given his apologies. Anne Marie Trevelyan cannot attend but is sending someone from her office. GC will liaise with NCC communications team regarding publicity. MM asked that a representative from NELEP is formally invited to the event. MM will also contact Guy Opperman MP to invite him.

5. **Programme Officer's Update**

GC went through the programme officer's report. The LAG currently have £28,000 left to commit. If the two EOIs coming forward tonight are approved the LAG will still have £19,000 to commit

Update on Projects in Development

Hay Farm Heavies - FA received - further information needed

GoGilsland - FA received - further information needed.

Shieling Meats - one partner has left the venture. Submission date unknown

Green and Sons - planning not yet applied for. The LAG decided to impose a deadline of 30/11/18 for a planning application to be submitted

Ash Tree Planters - LAG agreed to withdraw project

Pit Top Brewery - withdrawn

Mountain Rescue - FA received

Northumbria Kitchens - FA in progress

Thrunton Park - FA in progress

The LAG reviewed the reserve list and agreed to bring forward The Barber Bus, Stamfordham playing Field and Physio & Therapy

RPA Update

No update since the last meeting

6. **Review and Decide on EOIs**

The Hearth @ Horsley

The Hearth is a community hub in Horsley. They lease out 8 artist studios and a space which houses a cafe. They also have a hall for hire. The charity run yearly arts and music programmes and employ two part time staff alongside the seven trustees. The organisation's potential for growth is currently limited by staff time and this in turn is impacted by the space available. The current administrator is based in a corridor. The organisation would like to employ a 0.3 FTE finance administrator which would free up their current employee to focus on developing the marketing and creative programmes. The charity have requested funding to build a small timber office in the courtyard which would be able to house the two staff.

Looking to create 0.3 FTE jobs

The applicant is requesting a grant of £5,440 (80% of costs)

Vote - unanimous approval

Linacres Stables

This project will provide a lunge ring to enable the applicant to run her newly established breaking and pre training facility, based at the family farm. She will be drawing on her extensive racing knowledge as a professional jockey to be able to bring on young race horses.

Looking to create 2 FTE jobs

The applicant is requesting a grant of £4,402 (40% of costs) - increased from EOI request by appraisal recommendation

Vote - 6 approve

1 abstain

7. Review and Decide on FAs

Upper Coquet Wildflowers

The project will improve the productivity of an agricultural holding and wildflower seed supply business through construction of a dedicated wildflower seed storage and handling building where operations such as drying, sieving, dressing and packaging of the wildflower seed can take place.

Looking to create 1 FTE jobs

The applicant is requesting a grant of £8,728.27 (40% of costs)

Vote - unanimous approval

Gateway into the Community

The aim of the project is to develop and expand the facilities and services offered by Gateway into the Community at their new premises in Hexham.

The project involves:

- Installation of a new kitchen
- New kitchen fixtures and fittings
- Kitchen flooring
- New wet rooms (x2)

Carrying out these works will allow the organisation to become more productive and efficient, provide a better experience to its clients and service users and provide the opportunity to take on additional contract work increasing potential new job opportunities

Looking to create 0 FTE jobs

The applicant is requesting a grant of £24,989 (80% of costs)

The LAG were very impressed with the organisation. The low appraiser score was noted but the LAG felt that this application offered other benefits besides value for money in terms of jobs created

Vote - unanimous approval

Ciunam

The farm has two buildings with no agricultural purpose. The aim of the project is to renovate these buildings to create a Health and Wellbeing Centre to enable the existing healing business to have premises enabling the business to be promoted and customers to have the ability to drop in rather than have to have an appointment. This centre will have three treatment rooms, a meditation space / room for workshops, cafe for visitors and a display space for crystals. The shop and cafe will extend the time spent at the venue by customers. The proposal is also to create a Labyrinth in a neighbouring field as an outdoor feature to help achieve mental health and well being.

Looking to create 1.3 FTE jobs

The applicant is requesting a grant of £52,668 (40% of costs)

The project has been heavily delayed by planning complications. There is a current problem with the window specifications. The FA lists costs of UPVC window but the planning approval stipulates that windows must have wooden frames. DB advised the LAG that approving the project now is a risk to the LAG. If the extra costs of wooden windows cause the project to spot after the final commitment date the LAG will be left with an underspend.

The LAG decided to vote on the application in principle. An offer will not be made to the applicants until the planning issues are resolved. AS advised he is planning to get in touch with the planning department in his capacity as the applicants local councillor.

Vote - 6 approve

1 reject

8. October Event

Discussed under item 4.

9. AOB

TC suggested that LAG members do another project visit, this time with projects in the centre of the area. It was agreed to put this on the agenda for the next meeting

10. Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 6th November - Hexham Golf Club

Wednesday 5th December - Powburn Village Hall