



**NORTHUMBERLAND UPLANDS LEADER
LOCAL ACTION GROUP (LAG)**

Tuesday 6th November 2018

Hexham Golf Club

5.30pm - 8.30pm

Present: Terry Carroll, Nicola Bell, Mike Murray, Louise Kirkwood, Barbara Sexon, Alan Sharp, David Baird (NCC), Gillian Cowell (Programme Officer), Louise McCreery (Admin Officer)

1. **Apologies:** Steve Jopling, Tom Johnston, Anthony Murray, Jeremy Phillipson, Andrew Poad, Ruth Dickinson (NNPA)
2. **Declaration of Interest**
None declared
3. **Draft LAG Minutes from meeting on 4 October 2018**
Minutes agreed as a true and accurate record.
4. **Matters Arising & Actions**

October Event

The event took place on the 17th of October 2018. The project presentations in the morning were very good and some interesting information was given in the afternoon session. Feedback forms were handed out and generally the feedback was very positive. GC agreed to send copies of the presentation handouts to Guy Opperman MP and local councillors who were unable to attend.

Ciunam

As discussed in the last meeting, planning permission has been granted but on the condition that windows are wood framed. The FA was submitted for UPVC windows but the applicant has since received three quotes for wooden framed windows. The LAG discussed the options open to them and agreed to approve the project including the additional costs for the wooden windows.

Vote - unanimous approval

Project Visit

The LAG agreed that they would like to do another round of project visits, this time in the central region. Possible projects include Westfield, Black Sheep Vets, Coquet Wildflowers, Bainbridge Eggs and Prendwick. The LAG agreed to put this on the agenda for the next meeting.

5. **Walltown Funding/NEFRAN Meeting**

TC updated the LAG on the NEFRAN meeting he attended on the 18th October 2018. He came across an item in the NNPA papers which covered a funding bid for Walltown under the tourism infrastructure funds for approx £500,000. TC raised a question about this funding at the NEFRAN meeting and was asked to withdraw it which then caused some tension at the meeting. The LAG expressed support for the chair and agreed that he had acted in the interests of the group by raising the question,

The LAG felt that it would aid their decision making process to have information on projects supported by the other funding streams. TC agreed to request a summary of projects approved at EOI and will write to Anthony Braithwaite, chair of the NEFRAN regarding the questions raised at the meeting.

6. **Programme Officer's Report**

GC went through the programme officer's report. The LAG currently have £30,000 left to commit. If the three EOIs coming forward tonight are approved the LAG will have overcommitted by £53,000

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

Mountain Rescue - FA in appraisal

Northumbria Kitchens - FA in progress

Thrunton Park - FA in progress

The LAG reviewed the reserve list and agreed that no projects should be brought forward at this time due to current overcommitment

RPA Update

DB advised that LAGs can now apply for a programme extension if they feel it is necessary. Coast & Lowlands LAG are going to apply as they currently have an underspend. The LAG agreed to discuss this further at the next meeting.

The RPA regional meeting is to be held next week. Deadline extensions and funding transfers will be discussed. NULAG are unlikely to qualify for extra funds as there is no overcommitment at FA stage.

Future funding was discussed at it was agreed that an item would be put on the agenda at the next meeting for further discussion

7. Review and Decide on EOIs

Stamfordham Playing Field

The Stamfordham Village Hall Committee are also responsible for a basketball court behind the hall. The current fencing surrounding the court was installed 20 years ago and is now in very poor repair. The committee wants to upgrade the fence to a more durable solution. They already have quotes, including one from a local firm who have agreed to only charge for materials and donate the labour costs.

There are very few facilities for teenagers in Stamfordham and this is the only lit outside space for them in the winter.

The applicant advised they are considering other funding such as community chest for other works needed to the hall, such as upgrading the toilets.

The current usage is mainly by the youth club and on an ad hoc basis by local children. It is hoped that the fence upgrade will encourage school groups and coaching sessions.

Looking to create 0 FTE jobs

The applicant is requesting a grant of £16,624 (80% of costs)

The LAG were very supportive of the project. There was discussion of whether further match should be requested in the form of Community Chest of Councillor funds but it was agreed that these may not be sourced in time. GC agreed to encourage the applicants to seek funding for associated projects

The LAG felt that the strategic fit score should be changed from 1 to 2

Vote - unanimous approval

Hunter Harvesting Woodchipper

The applicant is a forestry contractor working in Northumberland and the Scottish Borders and is looking to diversify his operations by selling brash wood into the biomass market. This market is expected to grow exponentially over the next 5 years and already a lot of people have approached the applicant regarding him taking on the chipping of their brash. The project will purchase an all terrain woodchipper which will be taken onto forest harvesting sites (privately owned woodlands) to make wood chips for biomass out of the harvesting residue (brash)

Looking to create 1 FTE job

The applicant is requesting a grant of £51,200 (16% of costs)

Vote - unanimous approval

Focused Shockwave Machine

The project is to develop and expand an existing Physiotherapy business in Hexham through purchase of a Focused Shockwave Therapy Machine to enable additional treatments and services to be provided especially in relation to aesthetic treatments and erectile dysfunction

Looking to create 2 FTE jobs

The applicant is requesting a grant of £13,996 (40% of costs)

The LAG had a lot of questions about this project and were disappointed the applicant was unable to present his application. If approved, the LAG would like to know:

- If other quotes can be sourced for the equipment
- If the applicant is involved with the supplier of the equipment as he has done promotional work for them
- Are there any linked businesses - what is the relationship with the Harley Street business
- Is there any medical evidence that this is a viable use of the machine

Vote - 3 approve

2 abstain

The LAG have asked that applicant attend a meeting to present his full application

8. AOB

MM advised the Borders Organic Gardening Group (BOGG) would like to visit Coquet Wildflowers next year.

9. Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 5th November - Powburn Village Hall