



**NORTHUMBERLAND UPLANDS LEADER
LOCAL ACTION GROUP (LAG)
Tuesday 11th September 2018
Bellingham Village Hall
5.30pm - 8.30pm**

Present: Terry Carroll, Steve Jopling, Louise Kirkwood, Barbara Sexon, Nicola Bell, Jeremy Phillipson, Tom Johnston, David Baird (NCC), Gillian Cowell (Programme Officer), Louise McCreery (Admin Officer)

1. **Apologies:** Anthony Murray, Andrew Poad, Mike Murray, Alan Sharp, Ruth Dickinson
2. **Declaration of Interest**
None declared
3. **Draft LAG Minutes from meeting on 13 August 2018**
Minutes agreed as a true and accurate record.
4. **Matters Arising & Actions**

October Event

An Eventbrite page has been set up but it is not yet live. We are waiting for Cllr Peter Jackson to be confirmed as a speaker before the full agenda can be published. It was suggested that Lord Curry of Kirkharle could be asked to speak if Cllr Jackson declines. GC will contact both parties. BS agreed to forward the Eventbrite invite to the office of Anne Marie Trevelyan MP when the event is live. Invites will also be extended to LEADER applicants and NEFRAN contacts. Andy Dean has agreed to include the event in the next CAN newsletter

5. Programme Officer's Update

GC went through the programme officer's report. The programme budget has been revalued at €0.88. The target budget is now £1.6 million and the LAG currently have £89,000 left to commit. If the two EOIs coming forward tonight are approved the LAG will be £6,000 overcommitted.

Update on Projects in Development

Ciunam - in appraisal

Hay Farm Heavies - FA received

GoGilsland - FA received - further information needed.

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

Anthony Robinson - FA received

Green and Sons - planning not yet applied for

Gateway into the Community - in appraisal

K Wharf - in appraisal

Ash Tree Planters - no contact since EOI approval. GC to give deadline of 28/09/18

Pit Top Brewery - withdrawn

Mountain Rescue - FA received

The LAG reviewed the reserve list and agreed to bring forward Melissa's Beauty Box, Linacres Stables and the Hearth at Horsley

RPA Update

No update since the last meeting

6. Review and Decide on EOIs

Northumbria Kitchens

Redesign, construction and fit out of a currently unused room in the business premises into a kitchen showroom area - providing a functional space which can be changed and adapted to display kitchen layouts, appliances and accessories as required

Looking to create 1 FTE job

The applicant is requesting a grant of £36,000 (40% of costs)

GC advised that the display units included in the EOI will not be eligible as they will need to be replaced frequently. The LAG wanted clarity on the relationship with the applicant's business in the south of England

Vote - unanimous approval

Thrunton Woods - Tea Room Development

Construction of tea room at existing caravan site / holiday park to provide improved facilities for residential visitors, walkers and cyclists. The tea room building will also include 8 double rooms for use by bed and breakfast guests. The project also includes upgrade of septic tank and drainage for the site to allow for the new tea room development

Looking to create 4 FTE jobs

The applicant is requesting a grant of £60,000 (40% of costs)

The LAG questioned whether there would be a problem with the increased visitors on Forestry Commission land

Vote - unanimous approval

7. Review and Decide on FA

Anthony Robinson

The project will improve the productivity of an agricultural holding and agricultural contract business operating mainly around livestock and sheep enterprises by purchase of a mobile sheep handling system and associated EID reader and compatible portable bluetooth printer which will allow the holding and business the opportunity to increase productivity, offer further contract services, improve outputs, reduce costs and improve the health and welfare status of animals handled, allowing improvements to business efficiency and productivity through the business being able handle and work sheep whenever required, and also to enable data collection to assess and research existing flock performance in more detail which will inform future decisions on the best flock management strategy

Looking to create 0 FTE jobs

The applicant is requesting a grant of £3,033.60 (40% of costs)

The LAG were very supportive and felt the project would generate a large return for a small investment

Vote - unanimous approval

8. October Event

Discussed under item 4.

9. **AOB**

None arising

10. **Date of Next Meeting**

Thursday 4th October - venue tbc - possibly Rothbury