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**Scottish Borders Local Action Group (LAG)
Community Led Local Development Fund 24/25**

Thursday 14th November 2024

 TEAMS Online 10:00-11:15

**NOTE OF MEETING**

 **Present:**

Hans Waltl, Chair of the LAG (HW)

Pip Tabor, Southern Uplands Partnership (PT)

Charles Dundas, Borders Forest Trust (CD)

Lianne Drummond, Berwickshire Swap (LD)

Fiona Benton, Borders Community Action (FB)

Jan Pringle, South of Scotland Enterprise (JP)

Lesley Forsyth, Scottish Borders Council (Economic Development) (LF)

**Secretariat:**

Simon Lynch, Scottish Borders Council (Economic Development) (SL)

Emma Hamilton, Scottish Borders Council (Economic Development) (EH)

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|  | **Action** |
| **1.0** | **Welcome** |  |
| **2.0** | **Apologies**Miriam Adcock, Zero Waste Scotland (MA) Hazel Smith, Re-Tweed (HS) Trevor Jackson, Charlesfield Farms / SBSEC (TJ)James Playfair-Hannay (JPH)Debbie Playfair (DP) |  |
| **3.0** | **Conflict of Interest**NA |  |
| **4.0** | **CLLD Update** There has been no change in project finances, with just under £3,000 in community funding revenue. No application is small enough to fund completely with this. National discussions between various LAG staff and SG remain positive, with expectations of more funding, including youth LAG money. For Tranche 2, there is still hope for additional funding, but no announcement date is known. The rural policy team is unresponsive and has missed several meetings where this was the main topic.There is just under £13,000 left in the community capital pot. Both approved revenue and capital have been ranked, but we can’t afford to fund any existing project for revenue. For capital, everyone who responded prioritised the same organisation, with the general store leading by a significant margin. We are working separately with SBC and, if you agree, we can offer the remaining money and collaborate with the SBC waste team to cover the revenue element if we handle the capital element, moving the project forward. 100% confirmation are happy with this approach.Growing the Economy Capital has £46,000 left in its pot, with £23,000 being evaluated today. Two £5,000 projects were expected to come forward today but have not. We are looking to relaunch the YLAG following staffing issues at Youth Borders. If more money becomes available, it will be brought back to the LAG for a decision |  |
| **5.0** | **Funding Decisions** Community (Revenue) 1. Interest Link Borders - Approved

Growing the Economy (Capital) 1. The Frangipane Bakery - Approved
2. Seashells Nursery – Approved
3. Amelia Pettman Photography (Capital) – Approved
4. Elements (Capital) – Rejected
5. Abby Fraser-Davidson – Approved, Partial Funding
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| **6.0** | **Discussion on Best Practice** It was emphasised that applicants need to justify their requested equipment to ensure it doesn’t appear as general hobby kit.It was noted that the scheme’s setup is likely to attract similar types of people and projects.Additionally, the team was thanked for amending the file naming discussed previously, which has helped the review process easier for the LAG.  |  |
| **7.0** | **AOB** Meeting to be arranged to discuss streamlining the process which in turn should make meetings easier to chair and ensuring the correct documents are available. There are three EOIs/applications currently in for Growing the Economy and it’s unlikely more will come in soon. Discussion whether another meeting should be scheduled in the next few weeks or if new applications should be agreed upon electronically. If the majority prefer to discuss, a quick meeting could be arranged. A provisional meeting in the diary in case an online discussion is required.The issue was raised of what to do with any underspend in the business fund, suggesting it might be moved into a capital pot.There was a discussion about the potential for funding to come in December with a very short delivery time. |  |
| **8.0** | **Meeting Closes – 11:15** |  |