



Scottish Borders LEADER

Developing Enterprising Communities

SCOTTISH BORDERS LEADER PROGRAMME 2014-2020

Local Action Group meeting

Tuesday 22nd October 2019

10.00am at Tweed Forum, Old Melrose Dairy Steading, Melrose TD6 9DF

MINUTES

Present:

Heather Batsch, The Bridge (HB) - Voluntary
Frank Beattie, Scottish Enterprise (FB) - Public
Luke Comins, Tweed Forum (LC) - Voluntary
Gordon Harrison, Scottish Borders Community Council Network (GH) - Voluntary
Jules Horne, Creative Arts Business Network (JH) - Private
Bryan McGrath, Scottish Borders Council (BMcG) - Public
Annabelle Scott, Messrs A A Scott (AS) - Private
Gary White, Social Can Scotland (GW) - Voluntary
Geoff Allan, LEADER Team (GA), Scottish Government

Secretariat:

Linda Cornwall, Scottish Borders Council (LEADER Coordinator) (LiC)
Simon Lynch, Scottish Borders Council (LEADER Facilitator) (SL)
Bartje Magee, Scottish Borders Council (European Programme Support Officer) (BM)
Gail Blacklock, Scottish Borders Council (European Programme Support Officer) (GB)

| | | Action |
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| 1.0 | Welcome and Introductions BMcG opened the meeting and welcomed GA, from the Scottish Government LEADER team, who attended as an observer. | |
| 2.0 | Overview of Old Melrose Green Office Development Project This building was a successful LEADER project. LC gave an overview of the building works, explaining the energy efficient solar panels and passed around the table pictures at various stages of the works. There will be an official opening on Friday 1 st November. | |
| 3.0 | Election of Chair and Vice-Chair JR stepped down as Chair and LAG member, due to work commitments, so the LAG required to elect a new Chair and also a Vice-Chair. Only 2 people put their names forward for the roles. BMcG asked GW to leave the room in order for the LAG to discuss and elect the Chair. LAG voted unanimous to appoint GW as Chair, 7 votes for. GW returned. | |



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| | <p>One person had shown an interest in the position of Vice Chair. The LAG voted unanimously to appoint HW as Vice-Chair, 8 votes for.</p> | |
| 4.0 | <p>Apologies Hans Waltl, Federation of Small Businesses (HW) – Private Ian MacDonald, NFU Scotland (IMacD) - Private</p> | |
| 5.0 | <p>Minutes of Last Meeting The minutes from the meeting on 28th May 2019 were agreed by the Members attending, proposed by HB and seconded by LC. The minutes were formally signed off by the Chair.</p> <p>Matters Arising: 17/P00069– The project achieved revised Planning Consent at the end of August as anticipated and the works have progressed. Completion is expected at the end of January/beginning of February 2020. The project has made their first claim and are on track to deliver within the revised timescale.</p> <p>17/P00091 – the co-operation project was given final approval from Scottish Government. Five LAGs approved the project, Scottish Borders, Perth/Kinross, Angus, Lanarkshire and Outer Hebrides. The project moved quickly, appointing a new Comms and Marketing Officer who has been in touch with 20 projects in the Borders so far. SL will be meeting on 7th November with interested local groups. The 2019 Big Ideas Festival for young people aged 18-28 will take place at Wiston Lodge on 28th Nov-1st Dec 2019. There is a lot of interest in the film and story-telling workshops. There are 5 guaranteed places for young people in the Scottish Borders. Transport is planned to be arranged for the five Borders places.</p> <p>LDS Change Request – The LDS Change Request was submitted to Scottish Government in June 19 and was approved in June 2019.</p> | |
| 6.0 | <p>LEADER Programme Progress Report GW welcomed GB to the LEADER Team. LC provided an overview of Progress Report circulated. 11 projects are now complete, 18 projects are approaching completion and 6 are still to make their first claim. Information in table No 9.</p> <p>1.5 17/P00071 informed the LEADER team on 30th September 2019 that they wished to withdraw their project. As no costs were claimed by the project the budget will be de-committed. De-commitments and underspends are returned to the Scottish Government’s central pot as specified in the AB Meeting Minutes of 3rd September 2019.</p> | |



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| | <p>2.2 Claims process was discussed, each project now has a dedicated lead Claims Officer to push forward claims. This is already making a difference, as has the arrival of GB. About 46% of money committed has been claimed but as programme closes in 2020, there is pressure on the rate of processing claims.</p> <p>4.3 BMcG, GH and NT attended the Funding for Rural Communities Post Brexit workshop at Galashiels on 23rd September 2019. It was poorly attended, possibly due to poor advertising, but there was a useful round the table discussion.</p> <p>4.4 GW attended the Rural Enterprise Futures conference in Edinburgh on 19th September 2019. Focus was on Community Enterprises, Social Enterprises and Charities, where using business decision making is a key to their future.</p> | |
| <p>7.0</p> | <p>Programme Closure The Accountable Bodies meeting on 3rd September 19 produced a draft framework for Programme Closure which was circulated for interest. This was mostly advice for LEADER teams, comments on the document should be in by 15th November 2019.</p> | |
| <p>8.0</p> | <p>Monitoring & Evaluation Now that delivery phase of projects is well under way, M&E is getting more important and should be well planned. BMcG stressed that although this is important, emphasis still needs to focus on claims until April when all Scottish Borders projects are due to complete. It would only be possible to collate the information required from the 11 Scottish Borders projects which have completed at this stage. GW suggested as there is a scoring process at application stage it would be good to do it again at the end of the project, which would provide learning. As there are 11 projects now complete, the Monitoring and Evaluation process is a balance of what Scottish Government is looking for and what we can provide. Case studies can show a richness and breadth that mere numbers cannot always provide. LAG discussed retrospective re-visiting scoring of completed projects to benchmark decision making. Possibly to inform any future programme and/or other programmes like SOSEP.</p> | |
| <p>9.0</p> | <p>LEADER Event/Videos An outline plan of The Celebration Day, 15th May 2020 at Thirlestane Castle, Lauder, 10.00am – 2.00pm, was circulated.</p> | |



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| | <p>The plan comprises of 4 talks and 4 videos covering the 4 different funding categories, two Group Work sessions, and an update of SOSEP. The aim is to capture as much feedback as possible, how funding has changed the community/business/etc.</p> <p>Out of the 59 applicants an invite for 2 people will be sent to each project with the exception of 17/P00062 as they are providing the catering for the day. It is envisaged 100 people will attend the event.</p> <p>LAG members are asked to take an active part on the day. Any feedback on the format and content to SL, who will amend/adjust as necessary.</p> | All SL |
| 10.0 | <p>Joint Meeting – Dumfries & Galloway LAG (28/08/2019)</p> <p>A joint funding application was submitted to SOSEP by Dumfries & Galloway LAG to seek research to shape future funding in the South of Scotland area. Evaluation of previous LEADER programmes, which was the basis of the application, was seen as less fruitful than discussing current programme and learning from experience. SOSEP has agreed to fund a Learning Workshop in which Members of both LAGs and SOSEP would take part.</p> <p>The next meeting to discuss format for workshop has still to be confirmed. Proposed dates are 4th and 20th November 2019. LiC will confirm date when known.</p> | LiC |
| 11.0 | <p>AOB</p> <p>17/P00084 –LAG Members are happy to support submitting this application to Scottish Government central pot.</p> <p>The deadline for this round of funding is 15th November 19.</p> | LiC |
| 12.0 | <p>Dates and times of future meetings</p> <p>Tuesday 24th March 2020 – venue and time tbc</p> | |