

FORTH VALLEY & LOMOND LEADER LOCAL ACTION GROUP MEETING

Loch Katrine Café, Trossachs Pier, FK17 8HZ

12 December 2018

10 am – 1 pm

Minutes

Present:

Douglas Johnston	Community, Stirlingshire (Chair - Community)
Steve MacDonald	Stirling Council - Agency
Fiona Jackson	Loch Lomond & the Trossachs National Park Authority - Agency
Lynn Hamilton	VisitScotland – Agency
Janice Kennedy	Scottish Enterprise - Agency
Mike Ewart	Community, Central Scotland Green Network Trust
Julie Haslam	Community, Clackmannanshire TSI
Jason Clark	Community and Business
Bridget Clark	Community, Stirlingshire

Apologies:

Jim Livingstone	Clackmannanshire Council - Agency
Brian McColgan	West Dunbartonshire Council - Agency
Mike Strachan	Forestry Commission Scotland – Agency
Sue Wyllie	Community, Stirlingshire

In Attendance:

Anne-Michelle Ketteridge	LEADER Programme Manager
Carolyn McGill	LEADER Development Officer
Nikki Kenn	LEADER Development Officer
Caroline Paterson	LEADER Claims Officer and Minute Taker
Ashley Robinson	FVL Local Food & Drink Co-ordinator
Shaun Marley	LEADER Community Broadband Officer

	ACTIONS
1. Welcome and Sederunt DJ welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted apologies from JL, BMcC, SW & MS.	
2. Quorum and Conflicts of Interest DJ asked AMK if the meeting was quorate. She confirmed the LAG meeting was quorate. AMK reported a couple of conflicts of interest in today's projects for assessment: Maid of the Loch – JK (Scottish Enterprise as funder) Food and Drink Project – SMacD (Stirling Council as funder)	
3. Minutes of Last Meeting and Matters Arising	

<p>DJ asked if anyone had any comments in relation to the accuracy of the Minutes of the meeting in October 2018. No-one had any issues and the Minutes were proposed by JC and seconded by LH.</p> <p>Matters Arising</p> <p>BC queried status of IFLI project discussed at previous meeting. AMK advised that she had feedback the LAG’s comments to Fife LAG who are leading on the project. They had said their thoughts were similar but were waiting for more information from the applicant (RSPB). Her impression was that Fife LAG are not yet 100% behind the project themselves but this may change if the project outline changes. BC noted she saw new signposts at the wetlands on her last cycle through the area.</p>	<p>MINUTE APPROVED</p>
<p>4. Recommendations from Strategic Activity Group</p> <p>AMK circulated updated budget allocation report advising that the Rural Enterprise and Farm Diversification pots were now combined and has £241,102 available and there is currently £111,259 in the Community pot to cover community projects and cooperation projects.</p>	
<p>5. Projects for Assessment</p> <p>5.1 Killin Care Trust Cottages – Phase 1</p> <p>CMcG presented project to the LAG showing on screen where in the village the Care Home is and where the new cottages would be in relation to the existing building. She advised they are also looking to buy extra land at the back of the rear of the plot but this isn’t crucial to the LEADER application as it isn’t very large and will be part of the garden. The Care Home is currently negotiating with the owner the purchase price as they do not want to pay over the odds.</p> <p>Killin Community Trust has some reserves to cover the purchase of this land – we had thought of including it in the LEADER application, but the 10% max rule for land purchase was making their application very complicated for the applicant – as only 10% of the whole LEADER project can be for land purchase. The Care Trust are looking at making the buildings as green as possible and whilst their draft design was for a single storey building there is potential for a 2 storey building, depending on the outcome of the feasibility study.</p> <p>If they are successful today they hope to submit another application for phase 2 of the project in the future – although they are aware that the LAG may no longer have funds available.</p> <p>DJ thanked CMcG for her presentation and asked the LAG for questions. LAG member queried the design of the house – have they thought about storage for mobility scooters, wider access for wheelchairs, etc? CMcG advised the drawing are early concept drawings and be further investigated as part of this projects. Another LAG member also pointed out that this will be also be a consideration for planning permission. LAG member queried the timescale. CMcG advised applicant hoping to complete phase 1 by March 2019, then start planning permission and build in late summer 2019. LAG member noted no proper brief for consultancy which would</p>	

include a financial and 30 year plan for the buildings. CMcG advised applicant is currently working on a brief, adding they know it's not their skillset. LAG members offered to help, and also suggested Business Gateway for assistance and support in the writing of the brief for the business plan work.

The LAG agreed it was a great project to support the community's desire to expand the community run care home in a very logical way and a good fit with the LAG's community empowerment priority under the LDS objective of sustainable communities. unanimously to approve subject to specific conditions:

1. Consultant brief being agreed by the LAG. DJ and JC have offered to advise on content of brief.
2. 3 quotes for all work being sought.

5.2 Local Food and Drink Project

SMacD left the room.

AR presented to the LAG the option to extend the Local Food and Drink project by 1 year, advising total cost would be £36,000 with £18,000 requested from LEADER.

AR talked through the LAG's Food and Drink Strategy which she is hoping will be endorsed by the Council's finance and economy committee in early 2019. She explained the main themes are 1. "Vibrant local food economy", 2. "Investing in people", 3. "Shaping a resilient future", and 4. "Showcasing and celebrating".

AR advised the Forth Valley Food Festival took place in October with a local food promotion and programme. An example was Gartur Stitch Farm who are a small holding just outside of Port of Menteith who offered goat milking and farm tours. They have been so popular that they doubled the number of tours and plan to hold them every weekend until March.

Other activities so far have involved visibility and representation – participating in events and contributing to national consultations on local food and drink and looking at local food procurement by the public sector particularly schools.

Looking into 2019 the project is planning to implement the actions agreed in the action plan which include strengthening a local food business network by formalising, developing and supporting it. Also setting up a local food and drink portal. Also linking local food businesses to schools and young people. Also helping the area get Sustainable Food City status which will involve facilitating and formalising a regional food partnership. Finally a schedule of events for 2019 including a bigger Farm Festival in October with more locations and higher profile and a regional showcase "meet the buyers" event with Scottish Food and Drink will be held in Stirling in October 2019.

DJ thanked AR and invited questions. LAG member queried Clackmannanshire involvement? AR advised she would like more involvement from Clacks and had just been introduced to a new person to join the steering group from Clacks thanks to Julie from the Third Sector Interface. LAG member noted it would be good for the

National Park Authority to be more involved, although they had struggled to find the time. AMK asked if LLTNPA would consider contributing financially as that might make it easier to justify involvement in the project? LAG member would need to discuss funding possibilities.

AR left the room.

AMK queried if LAG wish to extend the contract? (£36,000 - £18k LAG/£18k match funding), she acknowledged that match funding from Stirling Council is still to be confirmed, although it could be split between two parts of the Council. AMK advised that SMacD hold told her the strategy has been very well received by elected members and management so was hopeful. Currently looking for agreement from the LAG to extend the project with 50% match from Stirling Council with a possibility of some money from the National Park.

DJ invited questions. LAG in agreement to extend project and moving on from the strategy it should have deliverable outcomes. Discussions on possible funders included Sustainable Food Cities but they couldn't provide funding until later in the project. Also requested that project links with more events and attractions in Clacks and West Dunbartonshire. Also need to think about legacy and where project will be housed beyond LEADER.

LAG agreed to approve subject to:

1. Match funding being confirmed. LLTNPA to explore possible funds as part of the match funding.
2. Specific and tangible outcomes/deliverables being delivered (representation, portal, business network, sustainable Food Cities and development of events).

AR and SMacD rejoined the meeting

5.3 Maid of the Loch – JK left the room as match funder

AMK took the LAG through this project as the project had been previously awarded a grant from the LAG in 2017 to fund the preparatory costs of an HLF Bid to get the ship sailing again. As the HLF bid was to be submitted in June with the outcome heard in September the LAG had said they would only cover the costs beyond September if the bid was successful.

Unfortunately the bid was not successful as HLF were short of funds, and the group have been invited to re-apply when the new HLF programme starts next year. In the meantime the group have been successful with the Regeneration Capital Fund for £1 million. The social media reach has grown thanks to the funded post from LEADER. On the back of the huge number of followers they are now keen to be an early adopter for the crowdfunding project.

The group plan to reapply to HLF for their March decision and have asked if they can keep £16,000 of their original allocation to be used to support them for the re-submission project and continuation of the social media activity. In terms of match funding Scottish Enterprise has said they will continue to fund if LEADER do.

LAG noted that the group will need the social media role for a successful crowdfunding campaign and would be a shame not to resubmit to HLF after all the work the group had done. The LAG agreed unanimously to approve keeping a total of 16k of the original award - max £10k for digital media role to June 2019 and project bid support (max £6k) to March 2019.

JK rejoined the meeting

6. Co-operation Projects in Development

6.1 Foraging Fortnight

NK introduced her project advising it's still in development and hopes it will be ready for scoring in late January by written procedure.

The project is to celebrate Scotland's natural environment and wild food through a national foraging fortnight, held in 2019 and 2020, involving a wide range of foraging and wild food activities across the 7 LEADER areas. Each of the LEADER LAG areas will focus on the angles that fit their LDS and target groups. Some are allocating more budget than others to the local activities (all will need to put in equally to the shared activity budget). SNH will contribute £2,000 plus staff time and will run 6 events. The total shared costs are likely to be £142,000 (£20k per area)

Main Costs: Campaign/Event Coordinator, PR/Marketing campaign including video footage, Travel costs for study trip to Zaube, Danish speaker visit (Vild Mad).

The Main Common Activities are: Development and Promotion of Foraging Fortnight, visit to Latvia's Wild Food Festival July 2020 (Leader project – chef entrants to their competition), Visit from Vild Mad Project Manager (to give talks at a few chosen locations in FF). What's new: Foraging App ditched, trial of Autumn and Spring timings

NK is currently costing out activities in our local area.

NK asked the LAG to contact her if they had any questions or ideas. LAG said they were keen to see the project come forward because of the strong link with the WildWonders project and were happy to score between LAG meetings.

6.2 Smart Villages Transnational

SM advised he recently attended the INCA awards (broadband Oscars) in London where the Balquhiddy Community Broadband project won best community project in the UK. They also won at the Scottish Rural Parliament in the outstanding rural innovation in transport and infrastructure category – he thanked everyone who voted. They have also been nominated for an EU award.

SM updated the LAG on current projects including free Aberfoyle wi-fi build is about to commence, tender has just been published for Trossachs phase 1 (Brig O'Tuk), supporting Gartness community with a network design for their area, supporting Blairlogie to upgrade their network to full fibre and working with 8 other communities regarding deployment.

SM advised he has been working on developing a transnational Smart/Digital Villages project with 5 other LAGs around Europe with a LAG in Finland being the lead. The project aims to exchange the best practices related to Digital Communities and smart local developments, identify ways to generate added value for the rural territories, establish a transnational network of LAGs between the partner regions and offer them an opportunity to learn from each other, and add local residents' knowledge on the multiple opportunities of smart development.

SM is still working on costings for the project but hoped to bring it forward to the LAG in March 2019.

LAG agreed it's a natural follow on from what's already happening and were supportive of the project being developed coming to them in March.

7. Project Allocations & Projects Requiring LAG Attention

AMK circulated a budget allocation update paper showing that up to today £1,707,069 or 82% of the total budget has been allocated. This is split by Community pot £1,207,441, Rural Enterprise & Farm Diversification £315,500 and Co-operation £184,128. She added that we are still healthy in terms of funds and we have been advised that the Treasury Guarantee has been confirmed as covering LEADER so we can still allocate up to the end of December 2019.

LAG queried underspends from other LEADER areas? AMK advised that this had been discussed by the Scottish Government but because of the end date for allocations had been extended for everyone there may be some funds available but it probably wouldn't be very much.

Projects requiring attention

Bowling Viaduct project – AMK advised project were awarded £300k in March but are still waiting on match funding confirmation from Sustrans. They were supposed to start on site in December. LAG requested a revised financial timeline/project update from the applicant for reassessment by the LAG in March 2019.

8. Updates from Scottish Government and the Future

AMK advised extension of awarding date to December 2019.

Scottish Government have been pushing for projects to keep their milestones up to date – AMK and CP have been chasing projects who are behind on submitting their claims as that is the way projects report on their milestones progress. At a more local level our first project to be selected for inspection by Scottish Government has been advised as Art 4 You but AMK didn't yet have a date for when this would take place.

DJ added that the next Chair's meeting is on 15 January 2019 and there will be a celebration event in the Scottish Parliament organised by the LAG Chairs – this is being hosted by Bruce Crawford in his role as convenor of the SG Finance Committee and as a supporter of LEADER. The event will take place at the Scottish

<p>Parliament on 27 February 2019 and is aimed at attracting support from MSPs to secure a future for LEADER/Community Led Local Development so isn't an open event to all. Bruce Crawford's support was noted and applauded.</p>	
<p>9. AOCB</p> <p>The Regional Food Assembly project and Balquhider Community broadband won their respective categories at Scottish Rural Parliament Awards – congratulations from the LAG were noted.</p>	
<p>10. Date of next Meeting</p> <p>The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 6 March 2019 at 10 am – venue to be confirmed.</p>	