



Scottish Rural  
Development  
Programme

**Angus LAG Meeting  
06- September 2017  
Care About Angus Centre, Arbroath  
Minute of Meeting**

**Present:**

**Private Sector:**

Douglas Pond (DP) (Chair) - Friockheim & District Community Council  
Charles Goodall (CG) (Vice Chair) - Care about Angus  
Graham Galloway (GG) - DD8 Music  
Gill Lawrie (GL) – Rural Leadership Group & Angus LAG  
Jim Clarkson (JC) - Visit Scotland  
David Valentine (DV) - Dundee & Angus Chamber of Commerce

**Public Sector:**

Alison Smith, Service Manager (Economic Development) (Vice Chair) - Angus Council  
Graham Hewitson (GH) Service Manager (Communities) - Angus Council  
Gina Ford (GF) - Scottish Enterprise  
Mike Strachan (MS) - Forestry Commission Scotland

**Attending:**

**Public Sector:**

Shelley Hague (SH) Business Manager (Funding, Policy & Projects) – Angus Council

**In Attendance:**

David Tollick (DT) Angus LEADER/EMFF Coordinator  
Angela McMillan (AMc) Angus LEADER/EMFF Clerical Officer  
Bruce Thomson (BT) Angus LEADER/EMFF Financial Officer  
Emilie Lindbladh (EL) Student Placement

**1. Welcome & Apologies**

DP Welcomed everyone to the meeting.  
DT introduced Emilie Lindbladh to the LAG.

**Apologies**

Jeremy Parker, Hugh Campbell Adamson, Jenny Adamson, Mark Cessford, Kim Ritchie.

**Resigned** – Veronica Lynch - DP asked LEADER team to contact the college regarding a replacement.

Bill Sturrock – Bill was emailed and asked to clarify his position. In the absence of his response he is considered to have stood down.

Meeting is quorate at 3 Public 6 Private, nine in total, a majority of the registered members.

DV advised the LAG that as of next week he will no longer be working for the Dundee & Angus Chamber of Commerce, but is still a member and would like to continue to be a part of the Angus LAG. This proposal was agreed.

## **2. Minutes of last meeting and Matters Arising**

Minutes of previous meeting approved, proposed CG and seconded GL.

No Matters arising.

## **3. Budget**

DT ran through the budget for Admin & Animation; everyone was in approval. DT suggested that although this meeting was identified to tackle any major virement issues that none really existed to date, and that the bottom line budget was projected to be in a healthy position at present. No further comments were offered by the LAG

## **Project allocations**

The spend under each allocation was noted, and the likely budget pressures and underspends were remitted to be discussed at item 4, below.

## **4. LDS Implementation Review**

DT ran though LDS implementation review

Cooperation projects – DT suggested that this allocation should not be seen as an issue, since three possible projects in the pipeline could take up this allocation

Enterprise projects – it was noted that there was only £88K remaining in this allocation, with likely budget pressures in the pipeline of £443K

Farm diversification projects – it was noted that this is already £52K overspent.

Unallocated (community) projects – it was noted that this was underspent by £1million, with expected budget pressures of £537K

It was also noted that the connectivity theme of the LDS had, to date, attracted no project awards, and that any actions to resolve this issue could be seen as a further budget pressure against either 'unallocated' or 'enterprise' projects.

The chair asked for a discussion on how to resolve this issue, noting that it was at the LAG's discretion to use the unallocated amount to supplement the minimum 10% allocations in farm diversification, enterprise or cooperation.

As part of the resolution of the issue, the timescales for further projects was discussed. It was noted that the LAG must contract all money by late March 2019 but applicants can be paid until Dec 2020. In effect we would therefore have to closely manage any unclaimed expenditure still outstanding at Sept. 2020.

However AS noted that we have an internal timeline to cover the fact that staff posts will terminate Dec 2020 and there will be no one available to process the claims. SH noted that staff contracts will be discussed at the national LEADER accountable body meeting next month, raising the issue of funding contracts beyond Dec. 2020.

GG stated that since we have increased the community (unallocated) intervention rate to 90% we have had lots of interest, which could be an argument for NOT vireing from the unallocated budget to support the other allocations.

It was noted that the three forthcoming enterprise applications, later in the agenda for pre-assessment, also required careful consideration as a 'group-pressure', rather than being dealt with as individual applications.

In connection with the report's second recommendation, the LAG agreed to establish a group to discuss the above budget pressures and project allocations (AS, GL, GG, DP first meeting to be arranged for early October). This would be followed by an extraordinary full group meeting to consider the issues and the sub groups recommendations.

## **5. Cooperation**

DT ran through the LDS Cooperation Report. We had 3 cooperation projects awarded – Artisan tea, Cooperation Development Fund and Youth Cooperation Development. Totalling £26,437.00

Discussion around the 3 other potential projects

Belgium/Romania Visit 21st – 25<sup>th</sup> October dates still to be fully confirmed. DT reported that the themes suggested by the other countries would be best developed in Angus through partnership between the LAG and Greenhillock Glamping, Murton Trust, and The Food Life. These partners would become the delivery agents for the Angus part of this cooperation project. MS was agreed as the LAG member to support this cooperation. DV asked what were the outcomes of this project, MS confirmed them as Tourism, Rural Skills and Green economy.

Fisheries Catchment – Finland Project – Kelly Anne Dempsey from Angus Council responded to our promotion on social media of cooperation opportunities. Kim

and Kelly will travel to Finland in October. Hugh Adamson or Mark Cessford were suggested as possible LAG members to support this project. DT to Approach them both.

Rural Focus of Local Business Associations - Dundee and Angus Chamber of Commerce have been discussing possible LEADER support to help them develop and grow, and are interested in pursuing a possible transnational cooperation approach, working with rural areas abroad to develop better rural focus for business associations. DT thinks there will be good project delivery but they would benefit from a LAG member to assist them. AS was agreed to be support to this project.

LAG agreed the recommendation to develop these projects, including the noted LAG supporting members. DT reported that these developments would draw from the existing cooperation development award for £5K, held by Angus Council.

## **6. Awards Updates**

DT ran through the Programme Activity Update, and answered a few questions raised by members

AS asked for project estimated timescales to be added to the Programme Activity update report for future meetings.

**Ashbrook Nursery** – Unfortunately they have still not managed to start due to problems with required approvals. Given the impending budget pressures on the enterprise fund allocation, it was agreed to give them a final date of 31<sup>st</sup> October to finalise their plans for delivering the project. At this date, the award will be reconsidered by the LAG, who can then agree to continue, modify or withdraw the award as required.

**Peel Farm** – Project now approved following second assessment.

**Eassie & Nevey** – Fast track application approved between this meeting and last.

**Berryhill** –Grant Offer of 15% was accepted by them, still to meet conditions. DT to check the timescale of project. Applicant suggesting modified project with new, in-kind, contributions being deducted from project costs.

## **7. Application**

**Murton Trust** – Rural Skill Centre –Approved with no conditions

**Angus Alive** – Mobile Library - Approved with no conditions. GG noted that this project will address part of the connectivity theme.

## **Pre-assessment review**

There were a few questions from members about these three Enterprise projects. It was noted that each project could still present significant assessment and delivery issues, ranging from planning consent to an unusually high requested intervention rate. These might be better explored through sight of the full application papers. DP therefore summarised that since we don't have enough information to discourage any of the projects, we need to have an early meeting once applications are properly detailed, to discuss them again. (see item 4 above)

It was agreed that these would be assessed as a group, in light of the budget pressure on the enterprise allocation that they collectively represent. It was agreed that the working group (agreed at item 4 above) would consider the best method of selecting between these applicants, based on current assessment arrangements. DP requested that all members would assess all of these applications.

DT advised that the Tealing Equestrian Centre will be coming up for assessment and should be at a similar stage of readiness to be included with the above three applications.

It was agreed that the three applicants would be advised of the outcome of this pre-assessment review.

## **Doodle poll to be sent out asap for special meeting date for early November**

The LAG agreed NOT to temporarily close the Enterprise fund at present.

### **8. Governance & operational Issues**

Annual Completion certificate DT and BT working on this with council internal auditors

AMCM to re-send out the Members Registration of interest form – only two were noted to be current. DP asked for these to be returned ASAP

DP also reminded members that those who have declared an interest should absent themselves while such applications are debated.

### **9. Monitoring & Evaluation**

DT advise that the stats report for SG will be sent out to the LAG members attached to this minute.

### **10. Animation, networking and Communication**

Georgians – will arrive on the 16<sup>th</sup> September, Project visits will take place on the 18<sup>th</sup> September to Caledonian Railway and Greenhillock Glamping. Current and

past chairs, and staff/LAG who have been involved with Georgians all supporting the visit at times.

Georgians will be attending the Scottish Rural Action AGM and Annual Conference in Dunfermline on the 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> September. Dougie, Kim and Emilie also attending.

UK Rural Networks Conference 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> November in Belfast – Charles Goodall attending. Trying to get another place.

AGRI Innovation Summit 2017 11<sup>th</sup> -13<sup>th</sup> October in Portugal – Gill Lawrie attending.

Chairs Group – DP had to submit apologies for the one meeting held limited feed back from meeting. It was noted that the National Council of Rural Advisors included the LAG chair from Rural Perth & Kinross.

Estonia Visit 24-26 October – study visit to look at rural development 20 people, all LAG members. LAG will be further briefed by email about opportunities to meet with the Estonian LAG.

**11. LARC's**  
**No issues to discuss.**

**12. Nesflag**

SH reported - 27th September PAC for 25th October NESFLAG

3 Angus submissions - Arbroath Harbour development - pontoons and capacity building

Angus Alive Signal tower heritage development

Montrose Port Cruise reception

Good links throughout these applications with regards to our LDS, Tay Cities and SG priorities

£360k ask from EMFF with total project costs £1.2million

Still significant budget left but anticipating a lot of applications for December round

No timescale for staff as they will be taken over by Marine Scotland

**13. AOCB**

DT met with SEPA. They feel that applicants are not giving enough consideration in their applications to the required statutory consents. Even though an applicant

has planning permission approval, this does not mean they have received approval from bodies such as SEPA, Staff to check with SEPA, and any other relevant bodies such as SNH, Historic Scotland, when an application is received to check that the required consents have been received and the application is OK to continue.

**Date of next scheduled meeting**

6<sup>th</sup> December 2017 – St Margaret House, Orchardbank Business Park, Forfar.