



**Scottish Rural
Development
Programme**

Angus LAG Meeting

5 September, 2018 at Mechanics Institute, Brechin

Minute of Meeting

Present:

Private Sector:

Douglas Pond (DP) (Chair) - Friockheim & District Community Council
Gill Lawrie (GL) (Vice Chair) – Rural Leadership Group & Angus LAG
Jeremy Parker (JP) – NFU
David Valentine (DV) - Dundee & Angus Chamber of Commerce
Graham Galloway (GG) - DD8 Music
Graham Hewitson (GH) - previously Service Manager (Communities) - Angus Council
Lol Scragg (LS) - Dundee & Angus College

Public Sector:

Gina Ford (GF) - Scottish Enterprise
Mike Strachan (MS) - Forestry Commission Scotland
Caroline Warburton (CW) – Visit Scotland

Attending:

Public Sector: Angus Council

In Attendance:

David Tollick (DT) Angus LEADER/EMFF Coordinator
Kim Ritchie (KR) Angus LEADER/EMFF Assistant Coordinator
Bruce Thomson (BT) Angus LEADER/EMFF Financial Officer
Shelley Hague (SH) Business Manager (Funding, Policy & Projects)
Karen Hamilton (KH) Angus LEADER/EMFF Clerical Officer

Apologies:

Private Sector:

Hugh Campbell Adamson (HCA) - Scottish Land & Estates
Jenny Adamson (JA) – Individual (previously Angus Glens Community Broadband Cooperative)
Mark Cessford (MC) - Montrose Community Council

Public Sector:

Alison Smith, Service Manager (AS) (Vice Chair) (Economic Development) - Angus Council

1. Welcome & Apologies

Dougie welcomed everyone and thank those who attended at Brechin Rugby Club this morning.

Apologies from Hugh Campbell Adamson, Jennifer Adamson, Mark Cessford and Alison Smith.

Sincere condolences to Jenny and Gill re recent bereavements.

Thank Hughie for his contribution on Brechin Rugby Club, even although he is not here – hopefully everyone read his email.

2. Minutes of last meeting and Matters Arising

Minutes of the last meeting were proposed by Gill Lawrie and seconded by Caroline Warburton.

No matters arising

Noted that the meeting was quorate as there were 10 members present. The meeting was also balanced with three of the ten from the public sector.

3. Budget

No particular queries at this present time about the Admin and Animation Budget.

Project Budget Report noted and no particular concerns on claim levels. 3 projects to discuss later in the agenda. Ashbrook, Denfind & Caledonian Railway.

3.1 DP asked about spend on **Angus Alive**. The vehicles have been put out to tender but should be ordered soon.

3.2 GL re **Scottish Honeyberries** –DT The one that says Fast Track-no claims yet. GL wondered about them requesting another project. Was the original an information gathering project (a feasibility study)? The Honeyberries original award was confirmed for marketing and branding website so not feasibility. The Award will be finished fairly soon.

The chair thanked the staff team for the work in keeping all the projects going.

3.3 The Chair asked that we go to Budget Item 3.3. Apologies were given for the late circulation of this report as below.

It was noted that there were 3 applications later in the agenda and a further 11 being worked up, as below:

Title	unallocated	cooperation	enterprise
Bothy Experience			£ 25,000.00
Dronley Community Woodland	£ 23,000.00		
Fisheries Catchment Finland		£ 50,000.00	
Flourishing Destination		£ 84,555.00	
Hedzup	£ 4,500.00		
Kilry Eco Pods			£ 15,000.00
Linne Smaland Yth		£ 40,000.00	
Lintrathen Cycles			£ 8,567.00
Nourish		£ 20,000.00	
Scot Hop		£ 27,000.00	
Stage Lighting for Brechin City Hall	£ 10,000.00		
Stracathro Hall	£ 10,000.00		

It was agreed that 17 expressions of interest would be further prioritised by the LAG through email correspondence. This would allow the staff to prioritize project development work to ensure full use of the current budget and possible projects for any extra money from the Scottish Government.

Title (17 Projects)	unallocated	enterprise	farm-D
Angus Alive - Gateway to Glens Museum	£ 10,000.00		
Auchlishie Farm Equestrian Bunkhouse kitchen			£ 50,000.00
care about angus	£ 5,000.00		
community first award extension	£ 10,000.00		
community first Old grey Whistle Test	£ 12,000.00		
East Haven Marine & Coastal Litter Management	£ 13,000.00		

Title (Cont.17 Projects)	unallocated	enterprise	farm-D
Friockheim Friockhub connectivity, electric vehicle points and broadband	£ 69,902.00		
Funding for digital - Douglstown	£ 90,000.00		
Greenhillock Glamping – further year staff		£ 9,000.00	
Incubator food & Drink Feasibility	£ 10,000.00		
Muirhead & Birkhill Millennium Hall – further area of parking	£ 18,000.00		
Outside the Box – further staff support	£ 45,000.00		
Rossie School	£ 40,000.00		
Rottal Glamping Pods		£ 125,000.00	
Scottish Honeyberry Cooperative			£ 50,000.00
Tourist Trail - Feasibility AC	£ 10,000.00		
Wellsden Wigwams-Glenlethnot			£ 90,000.00

The Chair agreed that this is a good situation to be in and it shows that there is considerable interest in the area but asked are going on 'are we going to say that the fund is now closed'.

3.4 Shelley reported that compared with other LAGs Angus spend is in the top 3 or 4. She is also attending meetings with the Scottish government to discover if Angus can receive further funds to support the demand in Angus from projects.

SH reported that we are looking at a massive underspend across Scotland, although everyone is saying that they are on target. The only LAG who said they had something to put up was East Renfrewshire and they said that they had about half a million. There is only potential for 4 to 5 lags potentially looking to take money, there are some on course what they have - they don't want anymore.

3.5 Concern was raised whether extra money from the Scottish Government would come with extra A&A funds.

3.6 It was noted that any funds uncommitted at Brexit were completely lost to the whole of the LEADER Programme Scotland. Therefore there are approximately 6 months to develop and approve further applications, noting that they can still spend to 2020. It was also noted that the cooperation threshold was now minimum 5% - Angus are very likely to exceed this.

3.7 Doug proposed that the story I think we have to give to likely applicants everywhere is that we have to wait and see if Scottish Government want to give us more

money. If they want to go ahead and do development work on that basis that's fine but they cannot get unlimited staff time to do that.

3.8 It was agreed that the way that we deal with new applicants is thank them for their interest and we will get back to them should funds become available.

3.9 It was agreed that the LAG may need to meet in October and November to make decisions on projects coming forward. LAG member will be sent a Doodle poll for next meeting in October and November as soon as possible.

4. Applications

4.1 Brechin Rugby Football Club (BRFC)

The Chair, again, thanked members for attending this morning at BRFC. Members were requested to note new information from the site visit.

Fencing: The erection of the fence is a condition of their Lease We shouldn't be funding that – likely governance position.

The fence costs were considered to be ineligible and should be removed from the Project. The LAG also considered the professional fees to be questionable and should be removed from the Project since they were not specified in detail.

Flood Lights: BRFC have put in for planning permission for Flood Lights, which should be cleared up in a couple of weeks

Costings: There was considerable discussion on the overall merits of the Project and there was not full agreement that the 90% intervention was suitable. It was however considered that the application/organisation was committed and competent and that the Project outcomes were worthwhile. Furthermore, there could be opportunities for the applicant to save further costs and this would be left at their discretion.

After removing fence and professional fees from the eligible cost it was agreed to award £52,500, considerably less than requested. This was an intervention rate of approximately 62.37% of eligible costs. The LAG agreed that the applicant now be offered the award on condition that planning consent could be achieved, and that further project funding could be assured to bridge the gap left unfilled.

4.2 Flourishing Destinations

Members had assessed this positively and after a short positive discussion the recommendation of the full £85,595 was approved.

4.3 The Cateran Eco Museum Project

This is a cooperation project with Perth & Kinross, who are the lead, Members made positive comments about other Eco Museum projects elsewhere and we are happy to approve project award of £63,450 (81.08% intervention rate).

5. Governance & Operational Issues

Agreed that application development had been covered at agenda item 3 when discussing the budget implications of the application pipeline.

6. Awards updates

6.1 Ashbrook

Ashbrook issues with septic waste are now resolved, and we are currently working with them on finalising the costings and pricing contractors; hopefully contracts will be in place within the next two weeks. Approx. £25,000 will go back into the funding due to reduced total project costs.

6.2 Denfind Stone

Dave met the applicant on 4 September re: planning issue which has been resolved. They are now re-planning the LEADER project in light of the planning decision and because the award made by LEADER £88,479.00 was less than the original funding gap.

The applicant will provide more match funding for the balance of the main part of the project. Denfind are looking through all the specifications and by early December hope to start the work in early spring (with building warrants approved). Should be completed by October at the end of next year. We would need to see it fully commissioned to release his 10% retention.

6.3 The Caledonian Railway

The Bridge of Dun project still has delays with the architects/engineers and fire service (the architects submitted the wrong drawing for the building warrant and issue with the fire hydrant).

Progress likely within another month

7. Monitoring and Evaluation

7.1 Publicity - Site Visits

The LAG was represented at Ogilvy Spirits for a photo opportunity.

The Chair thanked the staff team you for arranging the site visits on 9th August. It was a chance for our LAG members to see the Projects. CW thought it was really helpful, seeing and meeting the projects, as she is new to LEADER. We have had feedback from

the projects to say they were very pleased to see the LAG members on site and like to put names to faces in the LEADER team. It was suggested that we should arrange another visit after March, preferably next summer, when the projects are well on. It was agreed to make a further decision at the December LAG meeting.

7.2 Quarterly monitoring

There has been a delayed response by several projects and DT had not yet been able to look at all returns made. Main project issues are known already and have been discussed at agenda item 6.

8. Animation, Networking and Communication

8.1 Chairs Group

Dougie is attending CLLD (LEADER Chairs) meeting on the 18th at Stirling and will feed back at the next meeting. The last meeting had a poor attendance. Gina Ford was hoping to be there (Gina chairs South Aberdeenshire LAG). Dave reminded members that they could claim associated travel expenses for attending.

8.2 AB Group

SH reported on recent AB activity.

8.2.1. **Underspend**, discussed above in connection with project pipeline

8.2.2. **Service Level Agreement and Dispute Resolution**: This has been rumbling on since this programme started and is a big issue which would give us a bit more comfort, since the last programme, closing that down was tricky.

8.2.3. **Staff Contracts**: They need to extend beyond current 31/12/2020 to cover work required for the SLA (programme closure, audit etc.). If we don't have the staff team, that work falls to Angus Council, who are not in a position to resource it. ABs are going to push that bit. SH will bring to the December LAG a risk register in terms of staffing.

8.3 Policy consultations

Shelley reviewed the various consultations underway ref. BREXIT, SRDP, CAP and Shared Prosperity Fund, noting that Angus is being well represented with Council or community planning partnership input.

Shelley reported that the proposed Tay City Deal does cover rural Angus and P&K

DT noted that here hasn't been opportunity for the LAG to develop a united voice on consultations but that individuals may have responded to the links that were circulated.

GL noted a really good report on the rural economy/community from the Princess Trust.

8.4 SRP Stranraer

DP noted that he will be attending the next Scottish Rural Parliament in Stranraer, 14 -16 November, Gill said she was swithering. Costs would be eligible for LAG Member expenses.

9. NESFLAG

SH – Meeting was 4th July – and three Angus Projects were approved.

9.1 **Cooperation Beach Clean** with Aberdeenshire cleaning up beaches – they have been doing a lot of work and that has fed into Angus as well.

9.2 **The Arbroath Signal Tower** was approved to start building that up as a destination.

9.3 **Arbroath Harbour** - the pontoons were approved.

9.4 **Montrose Port** - unfortunately the application they didn't think it was viable.

So we have **£10,314.15** left to spend of the allocation - the next meeting is November.

10. Any Other Competent Business

DP – resigning from Friockheim community Council. On that note it was decided the LAG are happy for Dougie (and Dougie was happy) to continue as Chairman of the LAG.

DT - ref. the list of 17 projects as above Expressions of Interest, all the Category 2's (Appendixes 2, 3, 4), we need some feedback from the LAG members. An email will be circulated after the meeting to conclude this. It was noted that we did not report further information on the four projects looking for extensions of their current awards, members are already aware of them:

10.1 **Muirhead and Birkhill Hall** just want a further area parking.

10.2 **Outside the Box** just want further Stats to support the project they were awarded.

10.3 **Community First** just want further staffing extension as do Greenhillock.

11. Date of next meeting

We have already agreed to do Doodle Polls for October/November meetings.

It will be in Angus House for the next October meeting.

Dougie hopes to be able to offer 5th December LAG Meeting at Friockheim Hub as a location.

New: Date of next meeting will be 5th December, 2018 at the Board Room of Angus House. The extra meetings are now deemed as not necessary due to information from the Scottish Government.