



**Scottish Rural
Development
Programme**

Angus LAG Meeting

6 March 2019 at Friockheim Hub

Draft Minute of Meeting

Present: LAG MEMBERS

Private Sector:

Douglas Pond (DP) (Chair) - Individual

Jeremy Parker (JP) – NFU, also member Dundee & Angus Chamber of Commerce

Graham Galloway (GG) – DD8 Music

Jenny Adamson (JA) – Individual

Mark Cessford (MC) – General Manager, RIY Shipping (Scotland) Limited

Public Sector:

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

Gina Ford (GF) - Scottish Enterprise (by Skype)

Mike Strachan (MS) - Forestry Commission Scotland

Angus Council:

David Tollick (DT) Angus LEADER/EMFF Coordinator

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

Kim Ritchie (KR) Angus LEADER/EMFF Assistant Coordinator

Bruce Thomson (BT) Angus LEADER/EMFF Financial Officer

Karen Hamilton (KH) Angus LEADER/EMFF Clerical Officer

1. Welcome & Apologies

DP, The Chair, welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming and took the opportunity to show members around the Friockheim project facilities.

It was noted that the meeting was quorate.

Apologies:

LAG Members

Hugh Campbell Adamson (HCA) - Scottish Land & Estates

Gill Lawrie (GL) (Vice Chair) – Rural Leadership Group & Angus LAG

Graham Hewitson (GH) - Individual

Lol Scragg (LS) - Dundee & Angus College

Caroline Warburton (CW) – Visit Scotland

David Valentine (DV) – Temporary leave of absence.

Holyrood reception well represented Chair, DT, and ESEC. Angus favourably highlighted. Both MSP's; Mairi Gougeon (Angus North and Mearns) and Graeme Dey (Angus South), attended. Praise was given to Frickheim Hub, DD8, Murton and ABC.

2. Minutes of last meeting and Matters Arising

Minutes of 6 December 2018 meeting were proposed by Gina Ford and seconded by Mike Strachan.

There were no matters arising from the Minutes that are not on the Agenda.

3. Budget

We have two budget reports, covering the transition from calendar years 2018 to 2019 between the last LAG meeting and this meeting

i. Administration Budget 2018

This shows a saving (underspend identified of the projected budget) of £10,377 for the calendar year. The majority of saving is on Staffing. No concerns from Members.

ii. Administration Budget 2019

2019 projection likely to predict similar underspend of around 10k. Staff cost will increase as pay rise has now been agreed. No concerns from members.

iii. Project Budget*

NB - Excludes projects from the list that have been completed.

No concerns for staff team with regard to any of these, those showing zero spend are either at first claim stage or very recently underway and yet to show spend.

Forecasts from areas, and the redistribution of any areas' underspends, are dealt with at meetings with all the Accountable Bodies all over Scotland, attended by Shelley.

iv. Drawdowns from Scottish Government

As requested at last LAG, the drawdown report shows further information including dates drawn down paid back etc. No particular issues. We have submitted £1.238m and we have £360,000 not drawn down at this particular time. £345,000 was only submitted at the end of

January. Lag-time between request and recovery by Angus Council can be up to 90 days, which reflects timescale agreed the Service Level Agreement.

v. Application Development and Budget Pressures

Remaining balance of £177,000 in the awards for Angus LEADER. £270,000 pipeline projects – team has no concerns, looking healthy to fully spend. We are still looking at further applications coming in and not closing the books as yet.

We are expected to spend a minimum of 75% on the projects and 25% maximum on the A&A. We are likely to underspend on the A&A so therefore we could spend on the projects but not much clarity will be able to be given until September. Agreed to monitor and review at each LAG meeting. Applications for projects can be put in right up to December 2019 (meeting on the 5 December) and projects have to be completed by the end of September 2020.

Cooperation minimum reduced to 5%, Angus is looking likely to slightly exceed 10% to up to 11%. 5% Cooperation spend for SG must meet European target. Angus increased target will help meet this target for the whole of Scotland. All our cooperation projects can be completed to our programme dates.

Enterprise slight underspend, but there were two large awards through the community awards which had major enterprise outcomes which more than cover this.

Four projects in the Pipeline (section 10 of the report) required LAG outline approval to proceed to full development. Two LAG members (asterisked below) declared their interest in projects but participated in initial question and answer before withdrawing while the LAG considered their decisions, with Alison Smith in the chair for this.

- Kirrie Connections – *Graham Galloway* provided brief: Stage 1 – Development for Community accommodation in Kirriemuir, particularly for the Bonfest Event.*

Help them fund an appropriate feasibility project for preparing to move forward with applications, land proposals, etc. Locality project for community – identifying the work the work to be carried out.

- ADHD – *Funds would be to fund a worker to operate in rural Angus for a period of 18 months. Match funds will be identified. This worker will provide support for families that have a member of the family with ADHD. Project delivery seems to have a good reputation. This would bring added value in Angus.*

-Interesting, £55,000 for 18 months – targets and goals. Just now 46 families potentially that need help. Using the Friockheim Hub and bringing together Families and providing support. Roughly £1000 per family; seem reasonable.

- Ground Works at Friock Hub – *Dougie Pond* provided brief on 'ground works' budget was used to fund overspend on build. Looking for money for additional Car Parking*

(13-20) and outdoor seating, community gardens and children's play area. Offers in kind contributions from Guild homes, Men's Shed and others, leaves around 24k short. We are approaching Bank of Scotland re playground equipment.

Planning permission for Car Parking required – potential issues. Looking for £24,000 from £34,000 costings.

- Rural Youth Project (Cooperation) Complicated with their being 10 LAGS participating. DT advised members that SG may make a decision to use underspend through whole programme might look at developing this project. Roughly £20,000 per LAG (split into 20 LAGS from £400,000).

The LAG unanimously agreed to develop each of the four listed above for a future decision by the LAG.

4. Applications

Dronley Community Woodland 03/P00053

The LAG were told by DT that there were four public assessors and one private (mainly because of availability), however a decision on the project could be properly made by the meeting, which had a majority of private members present. The LAG agreed to go ahead with the assessments as made, and the meeting unanimously approved the application.

5. Award Updates for Noting

- **Two Fast Tracks:** Tourism Trail Feasibility - £7,955 and Angus Food & Drink Incubator Hub Feasibility Study - £10,000
- **Written Procedure:** Brechin City Hall, Stage Lighting - £20,000

6. Monitoring and Evaluation

- i. SG national programme statistics – generated from LARCS. Able to compare other LAG programmes/progress. % that we have committed in Admin and Administration is significant, though within the required threshold.
- ii. Quarterly monitoring update – no issues at present. We have asked but not received monitoring reports from other Cooperation projects; Scottish Gardens and also the Catevan Ecomuseum. Hope to be able to report at the next LAG.
- iii. LDS review and refresh 'Developing Rural Development' – At the last LAG we proposed a small working group to develop this proposal, which met. A summary of the report attached. Through Angus Council the LAG can apply

to LEADER for funding to do the work involved in refreshing LDS. Eol received from Shelley for £15,000. LAG agreed to develop a project further and five members, not on the steering group, will assess: Graham, Mark, Mike, Jeremy and Jenny.

7. Governance & Operational Issues

Assessors will now not need to mix private/public balance, so now we can just appoint 5 assessors (this is a slight change to the Business Plan). Application assessments will be coming thick and fast by written procedure over the next few weeks to the LAG members. (These cannot wait until the next meeting in 3 months' time). We will make the assessment process a week so that turnaround will be quicker.

8. Animation, Networking and Communication

- i. Holyrood Reception – Previously discussed at the intro to this meeting, there is an Info Graphic on spend based on applications, attached by previous email.
- ii. Sweden 1 – 4 April learning visit. An opportunity for LAG Members, Mark Cessford and Graham Hewitson (Angus), Catherine Erskine, Wendy Crawford and Catharine Idle (Fife) and Jackie Brierton and Rebecca Dawes from P&K is attending. Learning and development project to look at how rural development works in Sweden and vice-versa.
- iii. National LEADER staff Group meeting 13/14 April, 2019. Involves all the 21 LAG leaders in Scotland getting together, maybe 2/3 times a year in the one place and this time it is in Angus. The first part of the programme is based on ½ day training on video capture at Piperdam, working with a trainer, then a site visit to Friockheim in the evening. The second day will be based at Piperdam.

9. NESFLAG

We had £117,000 allocation for Angus and we have totally committed the monies. We had four projects and we are hoping to bring a report (with animations) at the next meeting. The four projects came to over £700,000 so would say that we have had good returns.

- Signal Tower – some funding to redevelop the side building
- Arbroath Harbour chilling (cold room) facilities and pontoons
- Montrose project did not follow through.
- Easthaven who did all their beach clean.

10. Any other Business

Holding a future LEADER Open Day showing all our projects was discussed.

Georgia follow up. Georgia rolling LAG model out and now have 8 LAG areas and hoping to add another 4 (going well). Interested in developing TNC soft project, tourism, agriculture, youth etc.

Dave Valentine keeping in touch through Alison but no further news.

11. Date of Next Meeting

6 June 2019 to be held at Birkhill (Millennium Hall) at 1:30 pm

Mark Cessford apologies for June meeting.