



**Scottish Rural
Development
Programme**

**Angus LAG Meeting
07 March 2018
Angus House Boardroom
Draft Minute of Meeting**

Present:

Private Sector:

Douglas Pond (DP) (Chair) - Friockheim & District Community Council
David Valentine (DV) - Dundee & Angus Chamber of Commerce
Charles Goodall (CG) (Vice Chair) - Care about Angus
Graham Galloway (GG) - DD8 Music
Jeremy Parker (JP) - NFU
Hugh Campbell Adamson (HCA) - Scottish Land & Estates
Jenny Adamson (JA) – Individual (previously Angus Glens Community Broadband Cooperative)

Public Sector:

Jim Clarkson (JC) - Visit Scotland
From item 7 Graham Hewitson (GH) Service Manager (Communities) - Angus Council
Gina Ford (GF) - Scottish Enterprise
Shelley Hague (SH) Business Manager (Funding, Policy & Projects) – 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
Angela McMillan (AMc) Angus LEADER/EMFF Clerical Officer

Apologies:

Private Sector:

Gill Lawrie (GL) – Rural Leadership Group & Angus LAG
Lol Scragg (LS) - Dundee & Angus College
Mark Cessford (MC) - Montrose Community Council

Public Sector:

Mike Strachan (MS) - Forestry Commission Scotland
Alison Smith, Service Manager (AS) (Vice Chair) (Economic Development) - Angus Council

1 Welcome & Apologies

DP welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked everyone for coming today

Apologies

Noted as above

DT confirmed the meeting was quorate with 7 Private and 2 Public members in attendance, noting that if members withdraw because of declarations of interest the balance should be re-checked.

DP asked that item 6 Friockheim Hub application be taken after item 3 due to DV possibly having to leave the meeting which could change the public/private member balance. This was agreed.

DT told the LAG that due to the changes in Angus Council both SH and AS Job titles had changed but they were both remaining in their current role within the LAG

2 Minutes of last meeting and Matters Arising

Minutes from December 2017 meeting, proposed GF and seconded GG

Matters arising - DT advised the LAG that instead of sending a letter of complaint to Forbes of Kingennie he had phoned them to discuss the issue.

3 Budget

DT Ran through the Project Budget allocation sheet with the LAG.

HCA asked if there was a timeline for accepting further applications. DT reported that the value of known outline requests from potential applicants now exceeded the remaining funds but there could only be limited guarantees over the LAG actually making the associated awards. DT reported that staff were now providing the LAG with new projects' outlines, to help the LAG vet applications that were being further developed, and they were also advising all new applicants on issues of timescales and availability of funds. For smaller applications, the risks and uncertainties are much less. In all cases, the LAG grant funds need to be fully awarded by 28th April 2019, with all project spend completed by Sept 2020.

DP left the room and CG took over the meeting. Note that the meeting was still quorate and balanced.

Friockheim hub – Changing rooms Application

CG asked the LAG for comments. DT Advised that 3 of the assessors were not in the meeting

- JA - felt that it was a good project but the spend was high and that there was not enough figures to confirm the need
- GG - sensory room, people will travel and with having the changing room he felt people would travel to use it.
- GF - spoke positively about the need for this facility as a contribution to equalities and diversity, supporting the ethos of LEADER
- DV - felt it would be a good asset for the area
- JP - Specialist provision is by definition a niche provision which needs to accept a different view of cost per user. Supporting diversity requires commitment to specialist provisions such as this

DT advised the LAG that one assessor noted that Friockheim Hub was not in a good location, but that the LAG were not assessing the Friockheim location against the opportunity to develop it in other Angus locations, and that CP users go online to identify accessible CP, and so colocation with a large settlement is not necessarily a barrier.

The LAG noted that 50% match reflected a considerable commitment to the outcomes for the other funders – Friockhub and, importantly, NHS, and that 24hrs access was an increased provision on existing Angus CP facilities.

The LAG accepted that the volume of users was difficult to predict, and unlikely to be high, and that the award was substantial. However other considerations prevailed. CG asked for a vote; the LAG unanimously agreed to the applicant's request.

DP returned to the room.

DV had to leave the meeting as was anticipated. Note that the meeting was still quorate and balanced.

3 Budgets Continued

DT explained to the LAG the reason for the 2 Budget reports; one for calendar year 2017 concluded since the Dec 2017 LAG, one for calendar year 2018, now underway.

No Issues raised

3.3 Project Budget monitoring

DT ran through the report

Food Life - DT confirmed that the governance and future of the organisation could not be confirmed and the award was now withdrawn. Confirmed the claim made to date was valid and would not be reclaimed from the applicant.

Berryhill - award was also withdrawn no conclusion could be reached ref. the outstanding financial contribution to the project.

Awards who had not yet claimed. DT explained – Library Bus is still undertaking procurement – Ogilvy, Community First, Millennium Hall; all newly started, spend expected soon – Ashbrook; see report below item 4

Tea gardens of Scotland - shows as overspent due to this being a cooperation project where spend will eventually be shared with P&K and Fife. The positive social media activity was noted. DT confirmed project also gaining international recognition (Sri Lanka; Japan).

4 Awards Updates

Fast track award – None for noting at this meeting

General awards:

Ogilvy spirits – have provided written arrangements for the community benefit requirement - previously circulated to the LAG.

Defined Stone- Had a planning issue due to noise, so a committee meeting was arranged and planning meeting also arranged. Council officers recommend approval.

Berry hill – discussed at item 3.3

The food Life – discussed at item 3.3

Greenhillock Glamping - JP noted that the change request was agreed by written procedure but that he had queried the educational commitment of the project, which had previously been one of it's attractions to the LAG. DP asked that a formal letter is sent to the project requiring them to retain the educational aspect of the project; DT said that the project have agreed that the educational aspect would be developed the year after the project had ended.

Murton - DT spoke about the project change to increase costs. Quoted costs had increased. The change request was agreed previously, by written procedure.

Ashbrook Nursery – Chair concerned over timing and implications for LAG funds should the Project be delayed further. LAG agreed to monitor and require the Project to conclude the issues with SEPA over the next few weeks. DT reported that the Project hoped to conclude this issue during April.

5 Cooperation

DT asked for comment on the report.

SH – noted that the accountable bodies group was working with Scot Gov. to review the minimum required cooperation allocation, since several LAGs had little prospect of awarding their required 10% of their overall budget.

DT asked the LAG to reconsider the attachment of LAG members to cooperation developments

It was agreed:-

MS to work with Finnish project on account of his role with the Esk Catchment project

Visit Scotland to attach to the Belgium-Romania project.

AS – has already been working with the DACC project.

DT reported new cooperation developments - Linne Smaland, and that the LAG would be contacted soon about potential input to this.

Crowdfunding – 10 other Scottish LAGs have shown an interest in this - Nourish

6 Applications

Brechin Buccaneers

DT Summarised the report. A large grant was being requested, and there were considerable risks with relatively minor funds from the applicant. GF agreed. DP asked the LAG to agree to cover further project pricing on costs if required - agreed. HCA stressed his concern that, after the build, was there a reasonable revenue plan to keep the building running. LAG agreed that they have concerns about the present revenue plan submitted within the bid. DP requested that the LAG defer the application for the capital redevelopment costs to be independently checked and for the Project to submit a more in depth business plan including information on running cost/revenue projections over the first 5 years. The LAG agreed.

South west Angus Community Development Project

DP - asked if the LAG had any questions

CG - has severe reservations over application. He feels this is in direct conflict with VAA third sector interface. He was of the opinion that the Project was

devised to enable Angus council to indirectly retain a post to support the community engagement in the area.

SH – She had been working a lot with Birkhill and the volunteer development role of the worker was to get the ball rolling and to enhance capacity of already active groups. She also pointed out that the project had developed from the Charette that had been recently held.

HCA - agrees and the project looks good but proposed that a lower rate of grant be given as there is not a lot of local resources being committed.

DT – Clarified that the Project was a partnership application between community council and Angus council

DP - Proposed that the LAG support the project but on evidence of further community funding which would allow the award from LEADER to not exceed an intervention rate of 80%. This was agreed by vote 7 votes to 1 (CG opposed), The grant was approved.

Graham Hewitson joined the meeting at this point.

Before moving on, the chair noted that Jim Clarkson was relocating to another job in VS – Caroline Warburton will be taking over his place. DP thanked Jim for his support for the LAG and his knowledgeable and pertinent inputs.

7 Governance & Operational Issues

Angus LEADER fast track assessment panel review – SH can no longer undertake this role. AS has agreed to take over her position.

Accountable body – Budget; There is a possibility that money may be reallocated between the LAGs, confirmation is expected within the next 4 months.

Dispute resolution; SG has agreed to appoint in a middle man.

Resourcing the post 2020 workload (audit etc.). SG is exploring extending LEADER staff contracts by 1 year.

Graham Hewitson – Retiring from the council 31st March but would still like to be involved in LEADER. DP thanked Graham for his support and input and suggested to the LAG that he remain a LAG member, initially in a private capacity - this was agreed.

8 Monitoring and Evaluation

Quarterly Monitoring report now in place with updates loaded on LARC's.

M&E update from SG – a small sub group to be set up DP, GH, JA have agreed to do this. DT to coordinate and provide further info.

Customer satisfaction survey – this is being developed at the moment.

9 Animation, Networking and Communication

Holyrood debate - led by MSP Mhairi Goujon. Dave Kim and Angie attended.

Please see attached for the transcript of the debate and here for the recording - <https://www.scottishparliament.tv/meeting/members-business-leader-programme-march-6-2018>

CLLD Consultation – Viima – all LAG had been directly contacted by the organisers.

Scottish LEADER Conference –possibly this year but seems that this timing is very tight.

Rural Parliament 2018 - Dumfries and Galloway and the Lothian's have bid to hold this, after the 2016 event in Brechin.

10 NESFLAG

Project Assessment Committee met last week 2 Angus projects which were to be considered were held up due to procurement issues:
Angus Alive – expand Arbroath signal tower offering.
Redevelopment of Arbroath Harbour

11 AOCB

Future Meeting time. Due to a clash with the communities meeting times LAG quarterly meetings would now **move from AM to PM**
County building boardroom to be considered as possible venue for next meeting

Date of next meeting

6th June 2018 1:30 pm venue TBC (provisionally now booked as Angus House Boardroom)