

Tyne Esk LEADER+ Local Action Group

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Monday 2nd June 2008, 9.30am at Town House Council Chambers, Haddington

Present

Frank Beattie	Scottish Enterprise
John Beveridge	Midlothian Council
Robert Conway	East Lothian Tourism Forum
Allison Cosgrove (chair)	Ass. of East Lothian Community Councils
Robert Dale	NFU
Ian Davidson	Scottish Government/ Forth RPAC
Tom Hobbs	Forestry Commission
Cllr Russell Imrie	Midlothian Council
Graham McCulloch	LAYC
Andrew McDonald	Midlothian Tourism forum
Margaret Nisbet	Midlothian Voluntary Action
Scott Murray	Scottish Agricultural College
Cllr Barry Turner	East Lothian Council
Margaret Winthrop	SWRI

In attendance

Jayne Adamson	Tyne Esk LEADER+ Project Officer
Susan Smith	East Lothian Council

1. Welcome

Allison Cosgrove (AC) welcomed everyone to the meeting and it was agreed that in AP absence that AC would chair the meeting. Frank Beattie (Scottish Enterprise), Robert Dale (NFU) and Tom Hobbs (Forestry Commission) were all welcomed to the LAG as new representatives from their organisations.

Ian Davidson (Principal Agricultural Officer South Eastern Area, Scottish Government and Forth RPAC member) was welcomed as a new LAG member representing the Forth RPAC and the Scottish Government.

2. Apologies

Archie Pacey (Midlothian Federation of Community Councils), James Bruce (East Lothian Voluntary Organisations Network) and Myra Galloway (East Lothian Council)

3. Minute of the last meeting

2007 AGM Minutes

The minutes were accepted as a true record.

First: Margaret Nisbet

Seconded: Scott Murray

20th March 2008 Minutes

The minutes were accepted as a true record.

First: Andrew McDonald

Seconded: Margaret Winthrop

4. Matters Arising

The current representative positions are vacant within the LAG: Pentland Hills Regional Park and Midlothian and East Lothian Chamber. Representatives from these organisations are to be nominated

Action

JA to contact

5. Paper 1 – Annual Report 2006

JA presented the report, the main points were:

- The LAG had invited LEADER+ projects to give presentations about their projects. This allowed the LAG and the projects to interact.
- In early 2007 the programme expenditure did not progress as quickly as predicted. Some projects struggled to claim/spend in line with expectations and as a result Programme spends at the end of the September¹ was 84% (£931,745) of our N+2 target of £1,113,743
- In 2007 Project expenditure to 31st December was £270,388 (Action 1 £265,528, Action 2.1 £4,860)

6. Paper 2 – Budget Report

JA presented the project budget report. JA informed the LAG that the Income and Expenditure Balance Sheet was showing a carry forward of £24,530.29. This was due to the programme claiming more than its 95% from the Scottish Government to cover the costs of the grants that would be paid out in 2008.

7. Projects Update & Finance

- All LEADER+ projects have been filed as complete. 94% of the project allocation had been claimed.
- The LAG was informed that during the LEADER+ programme £3,322.24 had been accumulated from Interest. This was to be spent on the LAG and would be allowed to carry forward into the new programme. The LAG discussed that it would like to visit other 'Forth' LEADER areas to see how other LAGs work and what projects were funded in the past.

JA to
organise

8. Update on LEADER+ Activities

- The Project Officer (JA) attended a LEADER Guidance meeting on the 12th May

Main points:

- There could be an opportunity for sections of the East Lothian Tyne Esk area to bid for additional funding for its Fishing Communities.
- Four Scottish Government LEADER meetings a year
- All payments to projects will be done via BACS. No cheques allowed.
- Applicants are being asked to fund at least 5% of the project
- Projects can claim up to 70% of expenditure and the final 30% can not be claimed until the final claim

9. Closure of LEADER+ Programme

Sandy MacMillan (Midlothian Council) and JA are to work on the final report. The LAG will be contacted in July to give their approval to the final report.

10. LEADER Programme

Susan Smith gave an update on the LEADER programme:

- Jayne Adamson had been appointed as the Tyne Esk LEADER Project Officer, starting on 1st July 2008
- East Lothian Council are to manage the Project Officer and the LEADER Programme
- Midlothian Council will manage documentation e.g. Business Plan, Strategy, etc

SS commented that lessons learnt from the L+ programme would help develop the LEADER programme. The launch of the programme on 13th May by Jim Hume was hailed as a success.

¹ Deadline for N+2 targets

11. Election of Honorary Officers

Allison Cosgrove as Chair unopposed (RC/ AMc). Andrew McDonald as Vice Chair unopposed (SM/GMc).

13. AOCB

The LAG discussed the format of the meetings and it was agreed to keep the LAG business at the start of the meeting and scoring of applications at the end.

14. Date of next meeting

Monday 1st September 2008, Silverburn Village Hall, 9.30am

TRAINING

The Project Officer and the LAG then discussed the LEADER scoring format and the application form.