



Local Action Group Meeting

Temple Village Hall
10th October 2011

In Attendance:

Allison Cosgrove (Chair)	Association of East Lothian Community Councils
Sandy MacMillan	Midlothian Council
Sandra Duncan	SWRI
Tom Hobbs	Forestry Commission
Robert Hogg	Midlothian Federation of Community Councils
Cllr Russell Imrie	Midlothian Council
Cllr Stuart MacKinnon	East Lothian Council
Frank Beattie	Scottish Enterprise
Margaret Nisbet	Midlothian Voluntary Action
Susan Smith	East Lothian Council
Kat Purser	Tyne Esk Projects Officer
Scott Murray	Scottish Agricultural College
James Bruce	ELVON)

Apologies

John Beveridge	(Midlothian Council)
Robert Dale	NFU
Andrew McDonald	Midlothian Tourism Forum

Minutes:

Introductions were made by the Chair, Allison Cosgrove and the minutes of the last meeting (6th June 2011) were agreed.

Project Updates:

Projects updates were presented to the LAG via means of the document sent out with the agenda and discussion was had over each project. A written update will be supplied for the next meeting.

Financial update:

The financial update showed that although some money had been gained back through underspends and the withdrawal of a project there is current not enough funds to reopen the grant.

Business plan:

The progress Sandy McMillan (SM) has made in reviewing the business plan was discussed.

- **ACTION** Sandy to review the business plan so that it may be agreed at the December meeting.
- **ACTION** Future funding options to be rescheduled for December after the business plan has been reviewed.

The following outstanding matters were also discussed:

Project TEL094 Gorebridge Community Hub has requested an extension. The project has spent some time reviewing its costs and although a claim has yet to be made to Leader the project has started and has claimed down grants from other funders.

- **ACTION** The LAG agreed to this extension. KP to inform the project.

A letter of complaint against Dunbar Community bakery (DBC) has been raised by Mike Mitchell of the Baker's Dozen regarding displacement. There have also been items in the press where Tyne Esk Leader funding has not been highlighted as required. Sandra Duncan (SD) pointed out that DBC stated very clearly, in the additional information supplied prior to their award, that they would not be in competition with existing businesses. Russell Imrie (RI) noted that they had an obligation to keep to this. Allison Cosgrove (AC) advised that she had not received an invite for the LAG regarding the opening¹.

- **ACTION** It was agreed that Kat Purser would meet with representatives from DBC and that Sandy McMillan would carry out a monitoring visit to check that publicity requirements, including a plaque on the premises, have been adhered to.

¹Information had been passed to us that an official opening was likely to happen during the first week of October. Kat Purser met with DBC on 13th October and was told that the official opening had not actually taken place yet and invites were yet to be sent out.

Susan Smith (SS) updated the LAG on the position of the Lothian Broadband Project TEL107. After gaining agreement from SS, KP had referred the project to Elaine McGregor at the Scottish Government as she was concerned that the project constituted State Aid. This was confirmed. SS has spoken with Ian Smith from Lothian Broadband and explained that the grant must be put on hold until this matter has been resolved.

- **ACTION** KP and SS agreed to keep the LAG updated on this issue.

Future workshops to help applicants with claims were discussed and KP agreed she would look at this for the future.

Deferred projects were discussed and Visit East Lothian (VEL) is now the only one of these still wanting Leader funding. It was suggested that the LAG ask VEL to resubmit their application for the December LAG meeting. Russell Imrie (RI) asked whether the LAG consider the VEL project to fit with their aims.

- **ACTION** KP to email VEL regarding their current position and when they may be ready to resubmit and as to whether we would be in a position to fund them when they are.

Discussion was had as to whether it would be good to invite Richard Lochhead to visit some Tyne Esk projects. AC said she had been pushing for him to visit the Flag Trust. KP said she would look into appropriate projects, possible Uprising or Roslyn Chapel.

The changes to Umbrella projects were discussed; Umbrella projects are not to pay out grants of less than £1000 and all claims should be fully checked as if they were a direct claim to Tyne Esk.

Date of next meeting:

The LAG agreed to meet in East Lothian on December 5th 2011.