

Tyne Esk LEADER Local Action Group

Minutes of the Assessment meeting held on Monday 1st December 2008, 9.30am at Port Seton Community Centre

Present

John Beveridge	Midlothian Council
Robert Conway	East Lothian Tourism Forum
Allison Cosgrove (chair)	Ass. of East Lothian Community Councils
Robert Dale	NFU Scotland)
Tom Hobbs	Forestry Commission
Robert Hogg	Midlothian Federation of Community Councils
Graham McCulloch	LAYC
Andrew McDonald	Midlothian Tourism Forum
Alan McGregor	Pentland Hills Regional Park
Scott Murray	Scottish Agricultural College
Margaret Nisbet	MVA
Cllr Barry Turner	East Lothian Council

In attendance

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

Apologies

Frank Beattie (Scottish Enterprise), James Bruce (ELVON), Ian Davidson (SG/ Forth RPAC), Myra Galloway (East Lothian Council), Cllr Russell Imrie (Midlothian Council) and Margaret Winthrop (SWRI)

1. Welcome:

AC welcomed everyone along to the meeting and introduced the following new representatives:
Robert Hogg, Midlothian Federation of Community Councils
Alan McGregor, Pentland Hills Regional Park

2. Minute of the last meeting

Monday 1st September 2008

The minutes were accepted as a true record.

First: Robert Conway

Seconded: Scott Murray

3. Matters Arising

- Scottish Enterprise Update: A Scottish Enterprise paper requesting approval for funding to support appropriate projects within the programme in the market of Scottish Enterprise's refined remit has been completed by the Scottish Enterprise Rural Team and has begun its journey through the internal approval process.

ACTION: Frank Beattie to keep the LAG updated

- A sheet detailing the structure of the Scottish Rural Development Programme and funding available was distributed to the LAG

4. LEADER+ Update

- No response from the Scottish Government

5. Budget Report

It was reported that the LEADER programme had not received its advancement from the Scottish Government (SG). The advancement is anticipated to be with the programme by the end of December 2008

Funding that has been awarded to the Tyne Esk area has been increased from £2.23million to £2.34 million. The following budgets were approved by the LAG:

Action 1 Projects: £2,038,585

Action 2 Projects: £129,710

Operational Costs: £171,705

Expenditure from the budget during August to November 2008 was the employment of the LEADER Project Officer.

6. Update on LEADER Activities

- On the 5th September, Iain Matheson and two people from the Scottish Government Finance Department visited the Tyne Esk programme to access the programmes financial systems. Feedback has been positive.
- 29th September, Scottish Rural Development Programme Rural Network meeting in Edinburgh
Main Points:
 - National Conference, 21st – 22nd November had been cancelled
 - A new 'rural gateway' website was to be designed
 - Training would be given regionally from the Network budget
 - Network budget £1.8 million (2007 – 2013)
 - Possibly no LEADER network
- Application Workshops: 15 people attended the 29th September evening workshop.
- Claim Workshop: 18th November 7 projects attending from 1st round approvals (4 projects unable to attend)
- The Project Officer has given three presentations to organisations: MVA funding event (7th Oct), East Lothian Learning Partnership meeting and East Lothian Council Community Development Team meeting
- Tyne Esk LEADER has been represented at the following events:
 - Forth Valley and Lomond LEADER Programme Launch
 - West Lothian LEADER Programme Launch
 - Launch of East Lothian Council Youth Vision Strategy
 - Launch of Edinburgh and Lothian Forest Habitat Network
- Attendance at the LEADER Coordinators meeting, 11th November. JA gave an update of the meeting
- It was to be noted that the Tyne Esk LEADER programme had been interviewed as part of the HMIE inspection for North Berwick.
- Website: August 2,101 hits
September 1,742 hits
October 2,070 hits

7. Forth RPAC Update

To date there have been 2 RPAC rounds. The first on 26 August was held on a national basis and from the 7 Forth cases forward (covering 9 priorities) only 1 priority was approved at that stage. This RPAC round was unusual in that no proposals were rejected but were deferred allowing people the opportunity to either let the proposal roll forward to the next RPAC or to re-enter an adjusted one.

The first true Forth RPAC was held on 20 October 2008 when 18 proposals (19 priorities) were forward for consideration.

16 Priorities were approved (3 in principle) to a total committed value of some £885,505. Three approved priorities were within the Tyne Esk LEADER area to a total value of some £47,500.

To date in the Forth RPAC area we have received a total of 290 Statement of Intents (53 from East Lothian and 17 from West Lothian)

Of the 229 assessed so far, 153 (67%) have received an Amber rating and 76 (33%) a Red rating and the split of the 290 received across the different priority areas is as follows:

Business Viability and Competitiveness:- 97

Biodiversity:- 59

Landscape:- 38

Built and Cultural Heritage:- 13

Water and Soils:- 4

Climate Change:- 21

Public Access:- 3

Diversification of Rural enterprise:- 49

Thriving Rural Communities:- 6

A total of 107 cases have gone through to the proposal stage of which 54 have been committed for assessment. The rest are still at the pre-commitment stage.

The next RPAC is being held on 1 December when there will be a total of 40 priorities forward for consideration (3 for West Lothian worth £25,500 and 8 for East Lothian worth £92,500).

8. LEADER Conference Update

AC gave an update of the LEADER Conference held on 18th September 2008. Main points:

- Claim forms had been finalised and would be getting sent out to programmes
- Outputs and outcomes were nearly finalised and would be sent out to programmes soon
- Not clear if there will be a LEADER network as with previous LEADER+
- Networking session useful

9. Action 2 Leipzig Conference

AMc gave an overview of his trip to Leipzig for an Action 2 conference. The main points were:

- It was evident that it was easier for countries in main land Europe to work together due to their boundaries being next to each other. Resulting in Action 2.2 projects. In the UK we are able to do this but through Action 2.1 and therefore there is a barrier for UK programmes to work closer with main land Europe to develop Action 2.2 projects.
- LEADER+ programme 2.3% were Action 2.2 projects
- LEADER+ 40% of LAGs did 2.2 projects BUT not always in LEADER areas.
- LEADER+ 31% Action 2.2 were Tourism based
- 22% Action 2.2 were Cultural based
- 35% more LAGs in LEADER programme

10. Business Plan Review 2009

It was discussed that the programme as part of its agreement with the Scottish Government would have to review its Business Plan annually. As part of this process an event is to be held to allow discussion from stakeholders e.g. projects, LAG, RPAC, Community Planning Partnerships, etc to be allowed to comment on the past year.

A sub-group was formed to discuss the event:

LAG members: Allison Cosgrove and Margaret Nisbet (Andrew MacDonald if unable to attend)

Midlothian Council (taking lead on the review): Sandy MacMillian and Caroline Easton

LEADER Project Officer: Jayne Adamson

A meeting was to be arranged to discuss the event and process.

11. Marketing 2009

The following ideas were discussed to market the programme in 2009:

- 'Educational Piece' in the local press that would cover the process of applying, stress the amount of help that is available, possible match funders
- In Midlothian the programme should: meet with the Community Councils (one off meeting), meet with Cllrs and Council Staff
- 'Mentors' – ask projects once complete if they would be available for groups to contact them for advice.

12. AOB

- Musselburgh Farmers Market withdrawal of project
- Letter from Loanhead Community Learning Centre requesting to apply for £70,000 (10.2% of project costs). The LAG approved that the Centre could apply for this amount of funding.
- LAG Protocol was discussed
- AC thanked Margaret Winthrop (SWRI) and Archie Pacey (Midlothian Federation of Community Councils) for their time, support over the years and for being an admirable representative for the programme
- It was to be noted that the marking/ score sheet would be revised for the next funding round. Guidance on marketing feasibility studies should also be given to the LAG.

13. Date of Next Meeting

2nd March 2009, 9:30am, McSence, Mayfiled

**Tyne Esk Local Action Group, Decision on Projects, Assessment Meeting 2,
1st December 2008**

Project Ref	Project Title	Area	LEADER funding requested	LAG Decision
TEL011.1	Restoration of Yester Kirk to provide a Community Venue	East Lothian	£50,000	Approved
TEL013.1	East Lothian Food and Drink Small Producers and Suppliers Initiative	East Lothian	£22,500	Approved
TEL015.1	Workshop Roslin Glen	Midlothian	£5,694	Approved
TEL020	Coastal Tourism Strategy	East Lothian	£6,000	Approved
TEL022	Midlothian Environmental Taskforce	Midlothian	£17,921	Withdrawn
TEL023	The Chair Lift Project	Midlothian	£18,994	Declined
TEL024	Route YC	East Lothian	£50,000	Deferred
TEL025	Harbour Development Stage 2 Feasibility Study	East Lothian	£30,000	Deferred
TEL027	Pit Stop Café	East Lothian	£53,340	Approved
TEL028	ESOL Outreach Project	East Lothian	£17,237.91	Approved
TEL029	North Berwick Lobster Hatchery Feasibility Study	East Lothian	£15,000	Deferred
TEL030	Native Butterfly and Moth Garden	Midlothian	£4,990.30	Approved