

Tyne Esk LEADER Local Action Group

**Minutes of the Assessment meeting held on Monday 7th December 2009,
9.30am at Garvald Village Hall, Garvald**

Present

Frank Beattie	Scottish Enterprise
John Beveridge	Midlothian Council
James Bruce	ELVON
Robert Conway	East Lothian Tourism Forum
Allison Cosgrove (chair)	Ass. of East Lothian Community Councils
Ian Davidson	Scottish Government/ Forth RPAC
Sandra Duncan	SWRI
Tom Hobbs	Forestry Commission
Robert Hogg	Midlothian Federation of Community Councils
Scott Murray	SAC Advisory
Margaret Nisbet	Midlothian Voluntary Action
Cllr Stuart MacKinnon	East Lothian Council

In attendance

Jayne Adamson	Tyne Esk LEADER Project Officer
Susan Smith	East Lothian Council
Angela Wiseman	Branch Head of Rural Community Empowerment Team
Elaine McGregor	Rural Community Empowerment Team

1. Apologies

Robert Dale (NFU Scotland), Myra Galloway (East Lothian Council), Cllr Russell Imrie (Midlothian Council), Andrew McDonald (Midlothian Tourism Forum),

2. Welcome

AC welcomed everyone along and gave an overview of the LEADER and LEADER+ funding that Garvald Village Hall had received.

3. Minutes of Last Meeting

7th September 2009

The minutes were accepted as a true record

First: Ian Davidson Second: Sandra Duncan

4. Matters Arising

Scottish Enterprise Update:

FB updated the LAG on the Rural SE funding. Projects can now apply to SE for funding. If the project is not a small community project and fits with the SE objectives contact FB to discuss possible funding.

ACTION:

FB to keep the LAG informed

LAG Membership Update: Lothian Association of Youth Clubs has withdrawn their membership from the LAG. This is due to budget cuts.

5. BRN Update

- All Tyne Esk LEADER projects now have a BRN
- The LEADER application form has changed to allow for the BRN application process to be easier. The first two pages are to be sent to the Scottish Government, Galashiels Office to register each project once approved by the LAG.

6. LEADER Project officer

JA will be going on maternity leave from 8th March 2010. Maternity cover has been advertised with a deadline of 7th December. Interviews will take place on 15th December by SS, JB and AC. It is anticipated that there will be a handover period and the replacement will start in early February 2010.

7. Projects Update

JA updated the LAG on projects spending and highlighted the following:

TEL036.1

This project has been withdrawn due to the project not being able to achieve the proposed outputs. It was recommended that the applicant, Penicuik House, would be looked upon favourably for indicating the 'issue' with outputs before expenditure had started. The LAG agreed that this would not affect their future applications.

TEL048

The project has been unable to obtain the match funding required for the expenditure that has been approved in round 5 by the LAG. The project had submitted a revised expenditure plan for the project.

ACTION: Project to resubmit an application to the LAG. A decision will be made via LAG scoring and email correspondence. To be decided upon before February 2010.

8. Budget Update

JA gave an overview of the programmes expenditure for the past three months and August 08 – Oct 09. The budget overview identified that the programme had claimed £61,710.53 over budget for Projects and had claimed the proposed amount for Operations. This was seen as a positive for the programme as it is reaching expenditure targets. It was noted that the programme had £31,175 in the bank account but a claim for over £100,000 was made to the SG and would be paid into the account hopefully before the end of December 2009.

9. Update on LEADER Activities

- AC, SM, SS and JA attended the Rural Gathering on 25th September. There was a mixture of people from different rural backgrounds and the day was seen as useful.
- JA had a meeting with Beverley Maclean, SCVO, regarding the Forth Regional Networking Events. The events are to be:

LEADER Area	Date and Venue	Theme
Forth Valley and Lomond	19 th January 2010, McLaren Leisure Centre, Callander	Environmental and Rural Development
West Lothian	24 th February 2010, Howden Park Centre, Livingston	Communities and Rural Development
Fife	20 th April 2010, Corn exchange, Cupar	Local produce and Rural Development
Tyne Esk	18 th May 2010, Carberry tower, Musselburgh	Tourism and Rural Development

- Service Level Agreement (SLA) has been signed by East Lothian Council Finance and sent to the Scottish Government with a SLA report

10. SLA and Audit

- SLA report has been written and sent to the Scottish Government
- East Lothian Council have agreed to the SLA conditions
- Internal audit currently ongoing by East Lothian Council (no charge to programme). They are looking at the TE process and three project files.

ACTION:

JA to update LAG at next meeting regarding audit.

11. Article 321, 341 and Fisheries Fund

See attached diagram

Fisheries Fund: East Lothian and Fife were working together to adopt a Forth strategy but now the SG has advised for separate bids.

12. RPAC Update

ID updated the LAG on the RPAC

- 27th November 2010, 96 projects accessed by the Forth RPAC. ID could not confirm approval, etc due to the Cabinet Minister not approving the decisions before the LAG meeting
- RP projects can now bypass SOI – this is not recommended as there is no Case Officer assigned
- Forestry grants less than £250,000 do not need RPAC approval
- Forth RPAC have awarded about £16million of grants

13. AOB

- Letter from Loanhead Community Learning Centre requesting to apply for £100,000 grant from LEADER. This was approved by the LAG

15. DONM

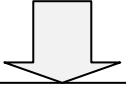
Monday 3rd March 2010, Midlothian

Project Ref	Project Title	Area	LEADER funding requested	LAG Decision
EL043.1	Roslin Chapel Audio Guides	Midlothian	£22,950	Approved
TEL046.1	Area Coordinator	East Lothian	£10,500	Declined
TEL049	Life Science Trust Nursery and Plant processing Project	Tyne Esk and Borders	Withdrawn: further information required	
TEL050	Development Plans for Roots and Fruits	East lothian	£24,400	Approved with Conditions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project 1st year match funding of £1,500 inkind and £10,700 cash must be in place by 1st March 2010 • The projects 2nd year match funding of £1,500 inkind and £10,700 cash must be in place by 7th June 2010 				
TEL051	Fast Tracking Forest School/ Kindergarten	East Lothian	£6,450	Approved
TEL052	Exchange	Midlothian	£21,180	Approved with Conditions
All participants are to be from the Tyne Esk area				
TEL053	Quince Cottage Residential	East Lothian	£50,000	Declined
TEL054	Temple Village Hall Refurbishment Phase One	Midlothian	£15,297	Approved

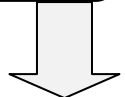
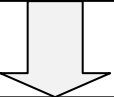
SECTION 11. notes

Diagram of proposed changes to LEADER Programme

Rural Gathering, 25th September 2009
Richard Lochhead announces 90% funding from LEADER



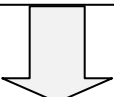
Press release stating that Community Facilities currently funded by Rural Priorities (RP) funding was being moved to LEADER



LEADER Coordinators meeting on 26th October

- Concerns were raised over the delivery of CF under LEADER
- SG confirmed that there would be no transfer of funds to LEADER.
- LEADER not achieving targets – must spend £15m by Dec 2010

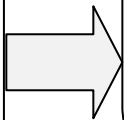
Community Facilities (CF) projects were receiving red lights from RP and were being told to see LEADER



ELC send a letter to Bruce Beveridge, Head of Rural Communities Division highlighting the following concerns

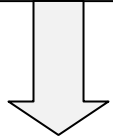
- Service Level Agreement being signed but changes to programme delivery not discussed with ELC as Managing Authority of the programme
- No consideration had been taken of the administrative and management implications of the transfer.
- Without the transfer of funds large projects in the pipeline could absorb the remaining budget resulting in ‘traditional’ LEADER projects not being funded
- LEADER programme and Rural Priorities (RP) do not have similar rules and regulations

Impact on LAC work load



Reply from Bruce Beveridge, Head of Rural Communities Division

- CF funding is to stay with RP for the current January deadline = longer transition period
- The amount of funding to transfer and the timing has yet to be determined. It is intended that any funding transferred would be added to the current LEADER allocation
- . All new projects coming forward from 1 January 2010 can therefore have total funding committed at un



What now?