

**Kelvin Valley & Falkirk LEADER LAG Meeting**  
**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2015, 10am @ Falkirk & District CVS, Falkirk**

<b>Present:</b>	Ian Howarth (Chair) David Greer Ellen Archibald David Tollick Robert Hunter Mike Ewart Katie O'Donnell Jimmy Hyslop Ian Jarvis Paul Carter	Falkirk Community North Lanarkshire Council North Lanarkshire Council Falkirk Council Falkirk Community CSGNT Scottish Waterways Trust SNH Friends of Kelvin Valley Kilsyth & Villages Community Forum
<b>Apologies:</b>	Frances Toner Frank Beattie Karen Herbert Jim O'Donnell	East Dunbartonshire Council Scottish Enterprise Falkirk & District CVS New College Lanarkshire
<b>In Attendance:</b>	Liz Buchanan Emma McMullen Anne-Michelle Ketteridge Ian Gilchrist	Visit Scotland KVF Development Officer FVL LEADER Falkirk Council (employment & training)

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<b>Item No.</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Action By</b>
<b>1</b>	<p><b>Welcome &amp; Apologies</b></p> <p>Ian Howarth welcomed all to meeting including Ian Gilchrist, Principal Officer, Employment &amp; Training, Falkirk Council.</p>	
<b>2</b>	<p><b>Presentation by Falkirk Employment Training Unit</b></p> <p>Ian Gilchrist from the Employability Training Unit at Falkirk Council was introduced and gave a presentation on Increasing Skills and Employment. He explained that in Falkirk they had a different approach to other Councils although there were similarities. In Falkirk the Employability Team sits within the Economic Development function of the Council. He also explained that within Falkirk Council there was a policy commitment towards creating opportunities for school leavers and placing young people in work. They also put community benefit clauses in all the contracts the council lets and 5% of Council workforce needs to be apprentices.</p> <p>Ian went onto explain all the different training schemes they run and also how they can work with other partners by providing trainees to work on partner projects. This allows them to use their funding as match funding for other projects (the example given was the Heritage Lottery Funded Inner Forth Landscape Partnership). He thought this might be possible for future LEADER projects. He stressed that they do not bid for projects, they only work as a strategic partner with</p>	

other organisations.

Question 1: how might a LAG area wide project work? Ian answered that they have good links with the employability teams in other Councils so they would probably work in partnership with them, although can do some work outwith the Falkirk area.

Question 2: did they get European Social Fund funding for their work as LEADER has to be mindful of no crossover? Ian answered that currently the only European funding was for the Employer Recruitment Incentive, but are in the process of making a bid for ESF funding on 11 May. This would not use up all their funding available for match though.

Question 3: could the LAG take on an apprentice as part of the LEADER staffing? Ian answered that this was indeed possible and proposed further talks on this if this was of interest.

It was agreed that engagement will continue to be developed by the LAG with the area's three ETU operations, to further detail proposals for cooperative actions.

**David T  
and Emma**

**3**

### **Minutes**

Minutes were proposed by Jimmy Hyslop and seconded by David Tollick for accuracy.

**4**

### **Hutton Institute report and financial allocations**

LEADER indicative funding allocations had been recently announced by the Scottish Government, with Kelvin Valley & Falkirk's being £2,824,399, approximately 40% more than had been estimated in our business planning.

The allocations were partly based on geographical scoring developed in the recent Hutton Institute research report.

It was noted that neighbouring Forth Valley & Lomond LAG, who are currently contracted to us for development support, had been awarded a similar amount, and AMK outlined her concerns about aspects of how the Hutton Institute research report had handled the central belt areas.

It was agreed that the final release of award funds would still be later than planned for, and that Service Level Agreements (SLAs) with the Scottish Council accountable bodies were still some way off. We would therefore require further bridging funding from the Scottish Government to enable development support to continue to be contracted.

**David T**

It was agreed that the Scot Govnt would be contacted by David T in liaison with Ellen, to resolve the SLA and bridging funding.

<b>5</b>	<p><b>Scottish government Farm diversification event</b></p> <p>There were two main messages from this event attended by three from KVF and AMK from FVL</p> <p>1/ the funds available for farm diversification are much reduced compared to last programme, and the size of awards farmers got last time (eg £250K) are now untenable, with many LAGs likely to establish grants schemes for small-scale actions towards diversification.</p> <p>2/ the farm support scene is complex and diverse, and LAGs will need to operate with a good awareness of this wider scene</p> <p>It was noted that the existing networks will already have alerted farmers to the issues of the scale of the new programme.</p> <p>Jimmy raised issues about the accuracy of how the event had portrayed the involvement of SNH funds in farm support.</p> <p>It was agreed that LAGs could not become farm support experts but that LEADER programme staff would need to build that knowledge and access such expertise, from national bodies such as Scot Govnt departments or National Rural Network.</p>	<p><b>David T and Emma</b></p>
<b>6</b>	<p><b>Stakeholder consultation – farm diversification and rural enterprise event and future consultation</b></p> <p>Emma reported that the recent event held in Falkirk was a good success, but just a starting point for conversations that will eventually lead to a clearer picture of what projects and activities are required. The sub-group established for this topic will continue to meet and report to the LAG through Emma.</p>	<p><b>Emma</b></p>
<b>7</b>	<p><b>Business plan and LDS update</b></p> <p>Ellen reported that there had been minimal feedback, just on the logic model, but that was simply overlooked in error by Scot Govnt.</p>	
<b>8</b>	<p><b>LAG recruitment/skills audit</b></p> <p>Little progress due to other priorities</p>	<p><b>Emma</b></p>
<b>9</b>	<p><b>Timescales and community launch event</b></p> <p>Further networking events will be taken forward by Emma with those contacts with whom we have already started to build partnerships. No community launch will take place until such time as we are in a position to handle applications and proposals. This may well be the autumn.</p>	<p><b>Emma</b></p>
<b>10</b>	<p><b>Service level agreement (SLA)</b></p> <p>Covered at item 4, above, being actioned by David and Ellen</p>	<p><b>David T</b></p>

<b>11</b>	<p><b>Consultancy support contract</b></p> <p>The continuation of the contract was discussed above, at item 4 Emma's workplan update was tabled (attached) and discussed – no points raised.</p>	<b>David T</b>
<b>AOCB</b>	<p><b>Ian Jarvis</b> reported that his local community were investigating the possibility of an HLF Landscape partnership for their area including the Campsies, including a meeting this same night, which Emma was also attending.</p> <p><b>David Greer</b> – formally introduced Ellen as his replacement from North Lanarkshire Council – Ellen was involved previously with the Kelvin Valley LEADER prog 2008-14</p> <p><b>Jimmy</b> – reporting the new link between the Clyde Coastal path and the West Highland Way – developed and funded by The Rotary.</p> <p><b>Anne Michelle</b> – said FVL keen to build links with KVF, particularly through the 'cooperation' element of the respective programmes and possibly under the Farm Diversification/Small Business elements.</p> <p><b>Robert</b> – reported that vandals had destroyed the Clanranald Trust's Duncarron site at Carron Valley reservoir, previously a Kelvin Valley and FVL LEADER-funded project.</p>	
<b>Date of next Meeting</b>	<b>Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June (NB this has now been scheduled for the AGM, which will precede the general business meeting)</b>	<b>Emma</b>