

**Kelvin Valley & Falkirk LEADER LAG Meeting
Wednesday 14th September 2016 at 1.15pm
Mugdock Country Park, Glasgow**

Present:

Ian Howarth (Chair)	Falkirk Community
Ellen Archibald	North Lanarkshire Council
Mike Ewart	Central Scotland Green Network
Robert Hunter	Falkirk Community
Jimmy Hyslop	Scottish Natural Heritage
Ben Mardall	Falkirk Community Trust
Ian Jarvis	Friends of Kelvin Valley
Jim O'Donnell	New College Lanarkshire
Janice Kennedy	Scottish Enterprise
Liz Buchanan (Vice Chair)	Visit Scotland
Niall Campbell	East Dunbartonshire Community
Katie O'Donnell	Scottish Waterways Trust
Frances Tonner	East Dunbartonshire Council
Pete Reid	Falkirk Council
Victoria McRae	CVS Falkirk & District
(Substitute for Karen Herbert)	

Attending:

Emma McMullen	Programme Manager, KVF LEADER
Amparo Echenique	Development Officer, KVF LEADER
Jacqui Davidson	Falkirk Council (Minute Secretary)

Apologies:

Item	Discussion & Decisions	Actions
1	<u>Welcome & Apologises</u> IH opened the meeting, welcoming those in attendance. No apologies were recorded.	None
2	<u>Previous minutes (June and August 2016 meetings) and matters arising</u> 20 th June 2016 minutes amendments FT noted that she was marked under apologies although she did attend meeting. Jim O'Donnell's name was missing a N. EM to amend minutes. ME proposed and JH second the 20th August 16 minutes. 22th August 2016 Minutes no amendments to note, EA proposed and JH seconded.	EM
3	<u>Audit issues/ Scottish Government monitoring visit</u> EM explained that after the Scottish Government monitoring visit, Spoke 'n' Boot & Shieldhill Butterfly Projects were deemed not to be eligible because the LAG wasn't quorate as set out in the terms of the	

	<p>original Business Plan held by the Scottish Government. The Business plan needs to be approved to allow a combined vote or opt out vote for public sector members, to allow for 51% non-public sector. Although changes were made to the Business Plan by the LAG previously, the Scottish Government did not hold this version. The Business Plan has been updated and approved by the LAG at the AGM. EM to submit to SG for approval.</p> <p>The Shieldhill Butterfly Project had not started by the time it was disallowed by SG, meaning that it could be reassessed by a quorate LAG at an Extraordinary LAG meeting on 22nd August.</p> <p>The LAG is currently in red status which means Scottish Government will return to check compliance with rules. EM & IH explained that they will meet with the head of LEADER. EM explained all minutes must now be signed, must have approved quorum and all members must sign in.</p>	EM
4	<p><u>Register of interests</u> IH asked to be noted who is still to submit, BM not submitted. NC, FT and JO uncertain. EM will check all LAG members and contact those where it is missing. RH asked if it was same form that was submitted at the start. EM confirmed it was a new version issued 3 months ago.</p>	EM
5	<p><u>Programme budget</u> EM noted that £53,255 approved to date from Challenge fund (main Programme). EM noted due to BREXIT there is uncertainty of the future of funding until the Autumn Statement.</p> <p>Remaining Rural Enterprise: £282,440 Farm Diversification: £282,440 Co-operation: £282,440 Total funds for allocation: £2,065,045</p> <p>September LAG Meeting Consideration Challenge fund (main Programme): £45,000 Challenge Fund Remaining (if approved): £1,172,725</p> <p>October LAG meeting anticipated for Consideration Challenge Fund (Main programme): £375,000 Challenge Fund remaining (if approved): £797,725</p>	

6	<p>IH remind all LAG members to submit expenses this month where applicable.</p> <p><u>Scottish Government update: Co-ordinators meeting, Brexit, LARCS</u> EM attended an EU audit feedback meeting. On the previous LEADER Programme, the Scottish Government had to pay a fine to the EU due to non-compliance of projects. This is affecting SG's current approach to monitoring visits.</p> <p>EM attended the Co-ordinators meeting, explained Programme Managers felt unaware of compliances due to lack of guidance and support. The Scottish Government had attended but no confirmation was given on funding post the Autumn Statement.</p> <p>All new applicants t must apply through LARCS. AE explained she will provide training in LARCS to LAG and staff. JH questioned if new compliance requirements are integrated into LARCS. EM explained she did not think so Scottish Government have not be able to change issues in the system. PR explained guidance & compliance not crystal clear and Scottish Government informed EM of Audit feedback meeting less than 24 hours before and EM had to go to the next one in Rothesay.</p>	None
7	<p><u>Recruitment of LAG members</u> AE informed two good applications. A matrix was used with the LAG skill set: youth; tourism; social enterprise; skills training; land management.</p> <p>First applicant Adrian Kitchen, from Stenhousemuir who has EU experience.</p> <p>Second applicant Alan Barr, from East Dunbartonshire.</p> <p>The LAG unanimously approved both applicants. Both applicants to be invited to the next LAG meeting and training to be arranged.</p>	None
8	<p><u>Applications</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on approved projects: <p>EM updated Spoke 'n' Boot still a LEADER project though Falkirk Council funded due to SG audit findings. It is up and running, received first guests. Promoting locally and linked with Falkirk Business Gateway. Visit Falkirk and Visit Scotland have been involved to help make it successful. LB informs that Visit Scotland's PR staff visited, high quality and an</p>	AE

assurance adviser to go out too.

PR commented on a Falkirk Council tourism strategy press release. Glasgow Herald wrote an article on Spoke 'n' Boot. After the audit, LEADER reference withdrawn but Business Gateway was referenced.

EM updated that Shieldhill started on site, featured in the Falkirk Herald. EM proposed that a LAG meeting be held in Shieldhill church inn December to view progress.

- Current EOIs and applications:

EM noted there are currently 25 express of interest, interest has declined due to uncertainty of EU funding. Farm diversification event generated interest for creating cabins on a working farm which a designer featured on George Clarke's Amazing Spaces has designed. Interested in applying in October, engaged with Business Gateway and RBS financial advisors. LB explained sector lead is out helping with application for Mannerston camping.

RH asked for an update on Carronbridge in Carronshore, IH informed that delayed due to compulsory purchase orders which are now resolved. EM explained Scottish Government's advice is required as 50% of the project is outwith the eligible LEADER area.

LB asked about the Castlerankine EOI and EM confirmed uncertain if project will be residential or tourism.

EM submitted LARCS query as does not ask for all the information need for an application. KO thought it offered an opportunity to talk to the applicant.

- Projects for assessment: Colzium Café and Visitor Centre:

EA declared an interest and left the room.

EM presented the Colzium Café and Visitor Centre, originally deferred due to lack of information. Eligible costs £90,000, asking for 50% funding. There is written confirmation of match funding.

Technical Assessment, previous outstanding issues have been reduced with supporting information. EM explained it would create one job; provide café and improved visitor facilities; toilets open only

during the summer months.

Scores of 48.3 out of 60, highest to date with innovation being the lowest. 11 LAG scores in total, 1 rejection, 4 approval of standard conditions and 5 approval with specific conditions. EM advised that this was a guide to the discussion.

Various points were raised in the discussion. Points were raised that it was agreed will be fed back to the applicant to assist them in adding value to the project. A number of points were also raised in terms of conditions of grant and the project was approved subject to specific conditions:

- Applicant to consult with VisitScotland and to add value to the product;
- Applicant to provide actual costs on approval of successful tender.

EA returned to the room.

- Co-operation projects

AE presented The Canal by Bike, similar to La Loire A Velo in France which is 500 miles and has 800,00 cyclist visit each year from all over the world.

AE proposed Canal route from Bowling to Edinburgh using the Forth & Clyde and Union Canals. Route 754 at 56 miles, traffic free. This route is in proximity to many archaeological sites and tourist attractions. There are no shelters or stopping areas and signage is limited. This project would improve parking, picnic areas; develop an app, signage for visiting attractions, and amenities. Create opportunities for spend within the local economy and jobs.

AE informed the LAG that a meeting with Scottish Canals and CSGNT would take place on October the 5th. JO suggested a bike hiring area. IJ promoted responsibility, make sure cyclist take into account walkers, AE agreed. RH mentioned consideration should be made for fishermen, horses, bike, motor bike, pedestrian. RH project has good potential growth development. EA explained many bodies to contact, Scottish Canals about signage. JO past experience permission is need from the forestry commission for signage.

EM explained it would be a LAG sponsored project/application in co-operation with West Lothian. Meeting in October will give an idea if there will be support for non-eligible areas and urban areas. BM signage project between Kelpies and the Falkirk

APPROVED SUBJECT
TO SPECIFIC
CONDITIONS

9	<p>Wheel. PR attending the World Canals Conference in Inverness and will highlight the opportunities.</p> <p>KO noted there is already a smart phone app in the tow path. JH asked if other LAGs are aware of project. EM explained that West Lothian is aware and keen to have a co-operation discussion. NC mentioned Bowling has a train station and would be worth contacting Abellio. PR could contact Abellio as currently in contact with them. RH suggested perhaps naming locks by historical significance.</p> <p>EM and AE to report back on progress at next LAG meeting.</p> <p>AOCB NC asked what the definition of urban fringe is? JH answered LEADER deals with rural areas, settlements within 10K if areas are identified as larger they can be approved by Scottish Government. Specifically, Kirkintilloch is included in the KVF LEADER area, approved by the LAG and the Scottish Government. Therefore, applicants are eligible to apply.</p> <p>NC left the room.</p> <p>IH explains NC has asked for the LAGS attention due to him missing training dates and 3 meetings. NC did not know that he had to score before attending meetings. EM confirmed he has now received training.</p> <p>JH noted that perhaps community members should be considered first when organising meetings.</p> <p>All LAG members agree that this is minor and is not an issue, NC should continue as part of the LAG.</p>	EM and AE
10	<p>NC returned to the room.</p> <p>DONM EM explained hope to hear the Autumn Statement in October. IH asks if the 11th of October meeting can be moved. EM states applicants will still have the deadline of 22nd of September. All agreed 1pm, 25th October in North Lanarkshire, new College Lanarkshire, Cumbernauld. <i>Subsequently amended to Colzium House, Kilsyth.</i></p>	None

Proposed at subsequent LAG meeting (25th October 2016):

Jimmy Hyatt

Seconded at subsequent LAG meeting (25th October 2016):

E. Archibald