

Kelvin Valley & Falkirk LEADER LAG Meeting
April 30th 2014 @ 10am, New College Lanarkshire, Cumbernauld

Present:	David Greer (chair)	North Lanarkshire Council
	Frances Tonner	East Dunbartonshire Council
	David Tollick	Falkirk Council
	Paul Carter	Kilsyth & Villages Community Forum
	Ian Jarvis	Friends of Kelvin Valley Park
	Jim O'Donnell	New College Lanarkshire
	Robert Hunter	Falkirk Community
	Frank Beattie	Scottish Enterprise
	Nicola Graham	EKOS
	Jimmy Hyslop	Scottish Natural Heritage
	Katie O'Donnell	Scottish Waterways Trust

Apologies: Elaine Mcgregor, Ian Howarth, Karen Herbert, Mike Ewart

Item No.	Subject	Action By
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1 Welcome and Introduction

David Greer welcomed everyone to the LAG meeting and thanks were given to Jim O'Donnell for organising the venue and hospitality.

2 Apologies

Apologies given (see above).

3 EKOS Update

The most recent draft of the Local Development strategy (LDS) was circulated to LAG Council reps in March and we are expecting comments and indicative funding allocations from Scottish Government mid May 2014. LDS to be circulated to LAG members. LAG would also like the next draft of the LDS to be shared with other LAG areas.

The 3 themes highlighted in the LDS are; 1. Heritage, Tourism & Leisure, 2. Community Services and 3. Local Business & Employability

The LDS should be finalised by September 2014, approved by November and allocations confirmed by December 2014.

We are currently awaiting guidance from Scottish Government on Business plans. This should be released at the strategic board meeting on May 21st.

Item No.	Subject	Action By
	<p>Programme timeframe (3 year vs. 5 year), Minimum/maximum project amounts, advance payments and central loan provision for the programme were all discussed. Further research and debate on these issues is required, as well as further guidance from Scottish Government and LEADER.</p> <p>Scottish Government feedback seems to allow for any LDS underspend monies to be used at a later date for updates to the doc.</p> <p>Once the website is up and running it should be properly promoted and the LDS should be posted on the site for feedback.</p> <p>LAG approved the appointment of contractors, Smith Designs to create the new website. It was also agreed that the new site would have a password protected “members only” page for confidential documents, etc. and a page which links to a list of previously funded LEADER projects in our LAG area.</p>	
4	<p>Scottish Government (Scot Gov) Update/ Feedback</p> <p>Scot Gov is pushing for a more strategic approach. LAG discussed pro-active verses passive approaches to identifying projects, possible flagship projects across all areas, umbrella funding and how this approach would work at audit etc. More discussion and information is required on these topics.</p> <p>There is £65 million in this LEADER programme, to be spread across 21 LAG areas, with approx. £2 million per LAG area and the remaining pot to be allocated.</p> <p>The LAG agreed that it needs to be working to develop the new programme and generate interest in order to hit the ground running when the new programme begins next December. The LAG’s funding allocation confirmation will also be in December 2014. A schedule of work leading up to the start of the new programme should be developed with a focus on cooperation & strategic projects.</p> <p>Scot Gov are also expecting a strong focus on business and enterprise in the new programme and highlighted £20k for business grants for non-farm businesses within the Scottish Rural Development Programme (SRDP)</p> <p>Scot Gov are looking to develop an on-line finance and reporting system for this programme, but this has not yet been procured.</p>	
5	<p>Strategic Meeting Update/Feedback</p> <p>Minutes/report from the Strategic meeting is available for download from the SRDP website.</p>	

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	<p>David Tollick reported that it was a good networking event for people new to LEADER</p> <p>It was reported that other EU LEADER programmes seemed to be much more flexible. It was hinted at that the auditing of the last LEADER programme may have been excessive.</p> <p>It was reported that Scot Gov have not yet identified their priorities or aims for the new programme and the general consenses was that they are awaiting the LAG's Local Development Plans in order to gain insight.</p>	
6	<p>AOCB</p> <p>The newly drafted constitution was circulated and those happy to sign at that time, did so. This will be re-circulated for signatures at the next LAG meeting for those not in attendance.</p> <p>NLC are currently listed as the lead partner in this document, but the document does allow for this to change. The document will be circulated with the next LAG meeting agenda for information.</p> <p>The next CSGN Conference will be taking place in Glasgow in June and it may be worthwhile having a rep from the LAG attend.</p> <p>The meeting chair is to be decided at the next meeting</p>	
7	<p>DONM</p> <p>Tuesday May 27th @ 10am in the East Dunbartonshire Council Committee room at Southbank Marina, 12 Strathkelvin Place, Kirkintilloch, G66 1TJ.</p>	