

**Kelvin Valley & Falkirk LEADER LAG Meeting
May 27th 2014 @ 10am, Southbank Marina, Kirkintilloch**

Present:	David Greer (chair)	North Lanarkshire Council
	Frances Tonner	East Dunbartonshire Council
	David Tollick	Falkirk Council
	Jim O'Donnell	New College Lanarkshire
	Robert Hunter	Falkirk Community
	Frank Beattie	Scottish Enterprise
	John Kelly	EKOS
	Katie O'Donnell	Scottish Waterways Trust

Apologies: Paul Carter, Ian Jarvis, Jimmy Hyslop, Ian Howarth, Karen Herbert, Nicola Graham, Mike Ewart

Item No.	Subject	Action By
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1 Welcome and Apologies

David Greer welcomed everyone to the LAG meeting. Apologies were given (see above). It was noted that Mike Ewart sent apologies for the April 30th LAG Meeting, but these were not included within the minutes, which have now been changed to reflect this. LAG agreed David Greer to be acting chair during this meeting.

2 EKOS Update

The Final draft of the Local Development strategy (LDS) is due in Sept. John Kelly from EKOS was in attendance to provide an update on progress. EKOS are not concerned with the LDS feedback received from Scottish Government. David Greer will compile a letter addressing issues which require further clarification from Scot Gov. (EOI, SWOT & data analysis etc.).

LDS needs to include further detailed information on additionality & complimentary actions (i.e. how we will avoid duplication with regards to other organisations such as the CPP's and Business Gateway). General information about other funding streams, which we are aware of and have identified as possible match funders. Show evidence of collaboration with other LAG areas for possible cooperation projects, consultation outputs and address EDC's aging population issues.

Business plan details need to be confirmed with EKOS in order for them to progress this document. Also LA's will need to provide detailed maps. It was agreed that datazones are most effective, as they allow for accurate analysis of the area. A one agenda item LAG meeting is to be arranged to work through these issues with John Kelly from EKOS.

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	<p>The LAG discussed the inclusion of the Bo'ness area, but it was agreed that this would make the Falkirk area too large and possibly dwarf the other two partner areas. The Coastal Communities fund is an alternative funding stream that could cover this area instead of LEADER.</p> <p>It was agreed that Linear features (Canals, Antonine Wall etc. should be included in the LAG area, but exact location/scale of these features should be kept vague for more flexibility.</p>	
3	<p>Scottish Government (Scot Gov) Update/ Feedback</p> <p>Scot Gov announced that although there is £66 million allocated for this LEADER programme there is a possible £8 million overspend, which may reduce the £66 million budget, resulting in widespread reductions in LAG allocations. Scot Gov. will be writing to request further information from all LAG's.</p> <p>Scot Gov. to provide guidance on State Aid issues. Frances Tonner is attending next week's State Aid conference in Edinburgh and will report back any relevant information.</p>	
4	<p>Strategic Meeting Update/Feedback</p> <p>Minutes/reports from the Strategic meeting are available for download from the SRDP website.</p> <p>Constitution issue were being debated at the last strategic meeting. Scot Gov. to look into this further and possibly release guidance or procedure information</p> <p>With Business Plan Guidance coming so late, many LAG's may find their money runs out before their plan is finalised. As previously reported, a meeting will be arranged with EKOS to address business plan issues.</p>	
5	<p>Constitution – Item to be removed from Agenda</p>	
6	<p>Meeting Chair</p> <p>David Tollick nominated Ian Howarth as chair. No other nominations were put forward. Robert Hunter seconded this nomination and the LAG agreed and approved Ian as LAG chair.</p>	
7	<p>AOCB</p> <p>David Tollick has had discussions with David Greeves and Kat Purser at West Lothian Council and they are keen to investigate possible future cooperation projects.</p>	

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Business Gateway and Community Learning and development group meetings went well. Employability group has not yet met.

Business plan guidance regarding appeal procedures for unsuccessful applicants has not been made clear. LAG agreed that we do not require a formal procedure for this, as it would be up to the applicant to make the complaint via Scottish Government.

8**DONM**

Single item agenda meeting to discuss business plan issues with EKOS takes place Tuesday June 10th @ 10am in Sealock house, 2 Inchyra Rd, Grangemouth, FK3 9XB.

Next regular LAG meeting still to be confirmed.