

SHETLAND LEADER 2007 - 2013 LAG

MINUTES OF LAG MEETING HELD IN EDU BOARDROOM AT 9.30PM ON THURSDAY 10th MARCH 2011.

Present: Douglas Irvine, SIC (Chairperson)
Pete Glanville, Shetland Organics
Wendy Hand, VAS
David Cormack, SGRPID
Maree Hay, NCDC
Kathleen Sinclair, NFU
Tommy Coutts, SIC
Mick Clifton, SIC (Proxy for Bill Crook)
Sally Spence, SIC
Mhari Pottinger, HIE Shetland
Elsa Manson, SIC (Proxy for Michael Duncan)
Kathy Hubbard, Shetland Arts
Denise Woodford, SNH
Jennifer Mouat, SSMO
Jimmy Smith, FSB
Diana Abernethy, AB Associates Ltd

Sheila Tulloch, SIC – LAG Co-ordinator

1. Apologies and Introductions

Apologies were received from Bill Crook, SIC; Ruth Henderson, Seafood Shetland; Alan Blain, SAT and Alan Bourhill NAFC Marine Centre who had tendered his resignation. Douglas Irvine explained Katrina Wiseman had resigned from the LAG and would be replaced by Mhari Pottinger. Jimmy Smith was welcomed to his first meeting of the LAG.

2. Membership Balance

The public/private status of the group was checked and there was an appropriate balance.

3. Election of New Chair/Vice Chair

A new chair and vice chair had to be elected due to Katrina's resignation. Douglas was nominated as Chair by Mhari Pottinger and seconded by Maree Hay. Mhari was nominated as vice chair by Kathy Hubbard and seconded by Maree. Both Douglas and Mhari were happy to accept the roles.

4. Declarations of Interest

Declarations of interest regarding the following projects were noted;

LEADER Action 1 Projects for Decision;

- 067 – Belmont Trust – None

Convergence Projects for Decision;

- 064 – Shetland Moving Image Archive Group – Moving Image Archive Phase 1 – None
- 073 – SIC – Next Generation Access Fetlar – Douglas Irvine, Tommy Coutts, Mick Clifton, Sally Spence and Elsa Manson
- 074 – SIC Events and Festivals Grants Scheme – Douglas Irvine, Tommy Coutts, Mick Clifton, Sally Spence and Elsa Manson
- 076 – SIC – Community Energy Efficiency Programme (CEEP) – Douglas Irvine, Tommy Coutts, Mick Clifton, Sally Spence and Elsa Manson
- 077 – Burravoe and District Development Group – Burravoe Community and Cultural Centre – Diana Abernethy
- 078 – Shetland College – RAISE – Douglas Irvine, Tommy Coutts, Mick Clifton, Sally Spence, Elsa Manson and Jimmy Smith
- 079 – SIC (Policy) – Shetland Smart Card – Douglas Irvine, Tommy Coutts, Mick Clifton, Sally Spence and Elsa Manson
- 081 – Moving On Employment Project – Transition Support Service – None

5. Minutes of 13th January 2011

The minutes were proposed by Pete Glanville and seconded by Mhari Pottinger.

6. Matters Arising – not dealt with elsewhere

There were no matters arising.

7. Budget Updates

The latest updates were tabled and discussed. Sheila Tulloch explained that a lot of spend was expected to be incurred and claimed this year. A column has been added to the register of approvals to show any underspends. Based on the financial summary the LAG is close to committing the full budget however it had been agreed to over commit the budget by 20% in anticipation of underspends elsewhere.

The targets were discussed briefly, they will be revised shortly. To date many of the targets originally set have been exceeded.

8. Projects for Decision

067 Belmont Trust – Belmont House Refurbishment

The application represented the final phase of the development. The Trust were seeking funding to furnish and equip the accommodation to meet National Trust (Scotland) and VisitScotland requirements as well as to set up a website to market and promote the venue on an international scale.

The project was located in a target area and had a strong degree of innovation. The LAG agreed to award funds of £16,674, 45% of total project costs.

064 Shetland Moving Image Archive Group – Moving Image Archive Phase 1

This volunteer run group were seeking funding to employ a project manager to lead the initial development phase of the project to establish a local moving image archive to collect, repair, preserve and digitise old film of Shetland. The project was extremely innovative and had a good match with the business plan in terms of revitalising communities. The salary costs were queried as being high but had been based in line with a manager wage in the public sector.

The LAG agreed to award funding of £27,555, 45% of total project costs.

077 Burravoe and District Development Group – Burravoe Community and Cultural Centre

Diana Abernethy left the room.

BDDG were seeking £149,336, 50% of total project costs to construct a building to be used as a community and cultural centre for the local community of Burravoe in Yell. This was one of the projects that transferred to LEADER from SRDP. The match funding for the Burravoe project had not been confirmed and there was a discussion as to where additional funding could be sourced if the applicant failed to secure Lottery funding. There were also queries regarding costs and the target number of people accessing services was seen to be too high. However, the application had a strong fit to the Business Plan, was located in a fragile area and drew on an established model. The LAG felt it was an extremely worthwhile project and approved the application.

Following on from discussing Project 077 and match funding it was requested that the Project Evaluation Form be amended to show whether or not match funding has been confirmed.

Diana Abernethy entered the room.

081 Moving on Employment Project – Transition Support Service.

This project was seeking Convergence funding to develop a transition support service for young people with additional support needs or autistic spectrum conditions. The LAG agreed it was a good project from a worthy applicant. Young people are a LEADER target group and the project would bring Shetland wide benefits.

The LAG approved the project awarding £57,431, 47.5% of total project costs.

073 Shetland Islands Council – Next Gen Fetlar

Douglas Irvine, Tommy Coutts, Mick Clifton, Sally Spence and Elsa Manson left the room. Mhari acted as Chair in the absence of Douglas.

This pilot project aims to establish next generation broadband of up to 25MB connection speed between Fetlar and Lerwick to increase the bandwidth and availability of wireless broadband in Fetlar. The LAG discussed the project and felt it was very innovative and could have significant socio-economic benefits.

The project was approved and funding of £50,000, 50% of total project costs was awarded.

074 Shetland Islands Council – Events and Festivals Grants Scheme

The LAG had a number of queries on this project at the pipeline stage. Most of the queries had been answered in the full application. The group discussed the project and felt that there were many local groups that could potentially benefit Shetland wide. The group decided to approve the project. The LAG decided it would be useful if LEADER funding element could be awarded upfront as this would assist small groups greatly.

Funds of £30,000, 50% of total costs were awarded.

076 Shetland Islands Council – Community Energy Efficiency Programme

This project aimed to assist community groups to improve energy efficiency of their premises and thereby reduce costs. This two stage pilot grant scheme would firstly allow for feasibility studies to be undertaken and secondly allow groups to apply for capital grant assistance to undertake work.

The LAG discussed the project and felt it had taken an innovative approach and could benefit groups throughout Shetland.

The LAG approved the project awarding funds of £200,000, 50% of total project costs.

079 Shetland Islands Council – Modernising Access to Services in Shetland

The LAG discussed this project seeking £77,500, 50% of total project costs. Queries were raised as to how well it would work in practice and also how it aimed to benefit tourists. The group decided it was an innovative project that could benefit users in rural areas as well as encouraging more people to use public transport.

The LAG decided to approve the project.

078 Shetland College – RAISE

Jimmy Smith left the room.

The LAG discussed this project seeking £149,336, 50%. They felt it was worthwhile as it aimed to deliver training and IT access in remote areas and as such met the aims of the business plan in terms of target areas as well as groups. Concern was raised again over the additionality of the project. The LAG decided to approve half of the funding to cover year 1 of a 2 year project with the condition that the applicant must provide an interim report detailing progress at the end of the first year. The report presented must provide evidence that the applicant had developed a dialogue and built links with local business and was responding to expressed demand. The 2nd year's funding would be released if the LAG considered the evidence satisfactory.

Mhari stepped down from the chair, Douglas Irvine, Tommy Coutts, Mick Clifton, Sally Spence, Elsa Manson and Jimmy Smith entered the room.

9. Strategic Board Meeting

Douglas provided an update on the meeting he attended. A Mid Term Evaluation had been undertaken in Pillar 2 of the Rural Development Programme and results for the LEADER element were very positive, there was concern on spend across the programme.

It is hoped there will be better lobbying from a Scottish perspective for the next programme. The next programme is likely to run from 2015 rather than 2014 as there may be delays in starting.

Virement was discussed as a possibility. If the LAG commits all of its allocated budget it may be able to vire funds to spend on a reserve list of projects.

10. EFF Axis 4 update

Sheila explained that although the full details were not available yet Shetland could benefit from around £375,000 of funding under Axis 4. Axis 4 funds are for "the sustainable development of fisheries areas". The group felt it was a small amount of funds and may only benefit a few projects but it was welcomed. The LAG decided to set up a separate group to deal with these extra funds. The group needs to have the same characteristics as the main LAG in terms of public and private balance. The members of the group are;

- Ruth Henderson
- Jennifer Mouat
- Jimmy Smith
- Mick Clifton
- Mhari Pottinger
- Sally Spence

This group will meet separately to discuss preparing a bid for funds and priority projects.

11. AOB

There was no AOB.

12. Date of next meeting/closure

5th May 2011, EDU Boardroom.

Meeting closed at 11.35 am.