

SHETLAND LEADER 2007 - 2013 LAG

MINUTES OF LAG MEETING HELD IN EDU BOARDROOM AT 9.30AM ON THURSDAY 27th MARCH 2014.

Present:

David Cormack, SGRPID
Ruth Henderson, Seafood Shetland
Michael Duncan, SIC
Tommy Coutts, SIC
Wendy Hand, VAS
Sally Spence, SIC
Mhari Pottinger, HIE Shetland
Irene Peterson, (proxy for Karen Eunson)
Diana Abernethy, AB Associates Ltd

Sheila Tulloch, SIC – LAG Co-ordinator

In Attendance:

Andrew Blackadder, AB Associates Ltd (FLAG Member)

1. Apologies and Introductions

Apologies were received from Douglas Irvine, SIC; Maree Hay, NCDC; Carole Laignel, SSMO; Donald Anderson, SADA; Juan Brown, SNH; Kathleen Sinclair, NFU; Jeemie Smith, FSB; Bryan Leask, Hjaltland Housing Association and Mick Clifton, SIC. As Douglas was not able to attend the meeting Mhari acted as the chair for the duration of the meeting. Mhari welcomed Irene to the meeting as well as Andrew who was attending on behalf of the Shetland FLAG group to discuss the draft Local Development Strategy.

2. Membership Balance

Membership of the group was discussed and there was a slight imbalance. It was agreed to proceed with the meeting however in the event of a vote it was agreed two public sector members would abstain.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4. Local Development Strategy

Tommy discussed the draft Local Development Strategy (LDS) circulated previously to the group. The draft LDS had to be submitted to the Scottish Government no later than 31st March. A business plan would be developed and submitted by July. The Scottish Government will provide feedback on draft versions and there will be an opportunity to amend the documents before final submissions are sent in September. Tommy pointed out the LDS included EFF funding as well although there had been limited information to date on how Axis 4 would be developed, it had been taken account of in the

LDS. The LAG commented that the document was well written and presented. It incorporated the feedback received from the various community events held as part of the community consultation phase of developing the strategy.

It was queried whether the LDS should have priority areas as the current LEADER Programme did. It was agreed that projects from throughout Shetland should be considered equally.

It was agreed that the LDS must emphasise the need for LEADER funding in Shetland. Although statistics may present a healthy picture of our economy, there are inequalities that statistics do not highlight, such as families living in poverty in the same postcode as more affluent families.

Tommy asked LAG members to email him with any further comments and stated he would circulate an amended draft.

Irene Peterson left the meeting.

5. LAG Membership

Sheila explained membership of the LAG needed to be reviewed as some existing members may wish to move on from LAG duties whilst new members may need to be invited to join the LAG to ensure it continues to represent Shetland as fully as possible. Sheila explained Shetland College and Hjalmland Housing Association had agreed to join the LAG.

Youth representation was discussed. There were a number of suggestions regarding how youth can be involved in the LAG as well as the practical limitations.

Membership will be considered further, a broad range of representation is required as well as having a large enough number to ensure that enough members are able to attend meetings and ensure they are quorate.

Andrew Blackadder left the meeting.

6. Minutes of 2nd February 2014

The minutes were approved by Michael Duncan and seconded by Ruth Henderson.

7. Matters Arising – not dealt with elsewhere

There were no matters arising.

8. Latest Updates

Sheila discussed the updates circulated previously. She explained a number of final claims had been submitted and were being processed. These claims take slightly longer to process as there are a number of extra checks that need to be performed.

Project LDR 100 – SSQC – Somatic Testing of Shetland Milk was discussed. Sheila explained the applicant had enquired whether they could purchase a different piece of equipment that would not be able to perform somatic testing but would be able to undertake a variety of other tests. The LAG discussed this and were sympathetic regarding the problems the applicant had with developing the project but felt that the approved application had been specifically targeted at somatic testing of Shetland milk. Sheila explained a formal offer had not been made on the project. The LAG felt it would be disappointing if a machine could not be purchased, however guidance should be sought from the Scottish Government on the issue before making a final decision. If the LAG is unable to award funding for a machine they would welcome the applicant to make a new application to the new LEADER Programme when it is established.

All remaining projects were progressing well.

9. AOB

LAG Meeting Dates

Diana stated Karen Eunson had enquired whether LAG meetings had to be held on Thursdays or could the day meetings be varied. It was agreed that LAG meetings do not have to be held on a particular day but they do need to be held on a regular basis. It was also queried whether the venue could be varied. It was agreed to continue with current arrangements until the new LAG structure is in place, members will then be asked which days they would be available for meeting.

10. Date of next meeting/closure

The next LAG meeting will be held on Thursday 29th May 2014.

Meeting closed at 11.05 am.