

SHETLAND LEADER 2014 - 2020 LAG

MINUTES OF LAG MEETING HELD IN EDU BOARDROOM AT 9.15AM ON WEDNESDAY 5th October 2016.

Present:

Fiona Stirling, HIE (Chair)
Juan Brown, SNH
Michael Duncan, SIC
Ann Johnson, Shetland Food Producers
Alan Blain, Shetland Amenity Trust
Alec Miller, Voluntary Action Shetland
Diana Abernethy, AB Associates
June Porter, SIC
Annie Nicolson, NFU
Bryan Leask, Hjaltland Housing Association;
Sally Spence, SIC
Andy Ross, Global Yell
Douglas Irvine, SIC
Kellie Naulls, Unst Partnership Ltd

Sheila Tulloch, LEADER Co-ordinator
Jennifer Sjoberg, LEADER Development Officer

1. Apologies and Introductions

Apologies were received from:

Elizabeth Robinson, NHS; Ingrid Webb, Cope Ltd; Kathleen Sinclair, NFU; Steve Mathieson, Visit Scotland; Lewie Peterson, SIC; Ruth Henderson, Seafood Shetland; Graeme Howell, Shetland Arts; Maree Hay, NCDC.

Fiona welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked all of the LAG members to introduce themselves for the benefit of new LAG member Kellie Naulls.

2. Membership Balance

There were eight members from the private/voluntary sectors and six from the public sector. Fiona asked the members present if anyone needed to leave early, Michael said that he needed to leave by 1100.

3. Minutes of 24th August 2016

The minutes were approved by Andy Ross and seconded by Sally Spence.

4. Matters arising

None raised.

5. LEADER 2014-2020 Update

Douglas started the LEADER update by reading an extract from an email he had received this morning from Geoff Allan at the Scottish Government. Confirming that all multiyear European funding secured prior to exit from Europe will be guaranteed. This is a change from the update sent out a few weeks ago which stated that funding could only be guaranteed for projects approved prior to the Autumn Statement on the 23rd November.

Sheila updated the LAG on LARCs confirming that she does now have access to the system. Over the next few weeks we shall be uploading the existing applications and setting up access for LAG members along with training. Douglas said that it would still be important to maintain a paper system in parallel to LARCs. Sheila confirmed that this would be the case as at present it was not possible to print from LARCs.

Sheila had no further updates for the LAG.

6. Declaration of Interest in any Application or Expression of Interest

Fiona asked LAG members for declarations of interest, financial or otherwise, in any of the Expressions of Interest or the application to be considered at today's meeting.

SHE026 Shetland Recreational Trust, New central reception and Fitness suite.

Annie Nicolson, through her employment at the SIC
Bryan Leask, Chairman of Shetland Recreational Trust

SHE027 Unst Partnership (Part A) and SHE028 Unst Partnership (Part B)

Kellie Naulls, currently employed by Unst Partnership

Andy Ross, Involved in writing the Expressions of Interest with Unst Partnership
Fiona Stirling, Unst Partnership through her employment at HIE

SHE029 Scalloway Preschool, Outdoor classroom.

Diana Abernethy, as a Director of Scalloway Preschool

7. Applications

SHE003 Shetland Moving Image Archive

No declaration of interest for this project.

Shetland Moving Image Archive Group have requested funding to establish a local film archive. The project will allow the group to employ an outreach worker to coordinate the digitisation and cataloguing of an initial collection of around forty old, vulnerable films and video tapes.

Fiona asked the LAG members if they had any questions regarding the project. None were raised.

Fiona asked LAG members to score the project

Once the scoring sheets were returned to Sheila she said that the average score looked to be around 36 with only one LAG member scoring the project below the threshold 'prioritise for LEADER funding'

Fiona asked LAG members if they were happy to approve the project. The LAG members unanimously agreed to approve the grant of £5,419.78, 44.97% of eligible project costs. The LAG agreed that the project had a close link to the Local Development Strategy and would build on the work done to date.

8. Expression of Interest

SHE023 Shetland Amateur Athletics Club, competition elite photo finish timing system

Shetland Amateur athletics club are looking to purchase a Competition Elite Photo-finish timing system. At present athletes from Shetland must travel to the Mainland at additional expense to attend competitions with approved timing systems. The new system will allow the athletes to have their times accurately measured and would be acceptable on Scottish and UK rankings.

Alec initiated the discussion by stating that the amount requested was high, Jennifer answered that she had been back in contact with the applicant and had explained that the maximum contribution would be 50%, Michael said that he was also in contact with the group to look at alternative sources of additional funding to fill the gap. Sally said that the project does appear to be a fit to the Local Development Strategy.

Fiona said that the project does appear to be suitable and asked LAG members if they were in agreement that the group should be invited to complete a full application. The LAG members were in agreement.

SHE024 Brough Lodge Trust, Shetland Peerie Makers Programme; Phase 2 – Shetland Wide Roll Out

Brough Lodge Trust is looking to roll out their initial peerie makers pilot project to the rest of Shetland. LEADER funding is required to purchase additional knitting equipment and employ a part time coordinator.

Fiona asked where the match funding would be from and if this had been secured. Sheila said that match funding was to come from Private Sector sponsorship and it was likely that this would be secured. Andy asked if this was another pilot after a pilot and would the project be sustainable after the project is complete. LAG members were in agreement that the project was in part a pilot to roll out to the whole of Shetland. Diana said that by employing a co-ordinator this would help to ensure that the roll out was done in a fair manner. Ann said that the funds sought did appear to be quite high. Sheila said that it would be necessary for the applicant to justify the costs and read out to the LAG from an additional document the costs which had been included. Douglas queried the high number of knitting belts as people learning to knit normally start with simple projects. Sheila added that the length of the project at three years was also longer than would normally be approved under LEADER.

Michael said that the project does appear to fit to the Local Development Strategy.

The LAG members were in agreement that the project did fit with the Local Development Strategy and the applicant should be invited to complete a full application. Feedback to applicant: the LAG is concerned about the overall project cost and length of the project as 2 years would be more suitable.

SHE025 Whalsay Model Yacht Club, Loch of Houll access road.

Whalsay Model Yacht Club are looking to upgrade the access road to the Loch of Houll. The model yacht club has built a gravel path around the loch which is well used by walkers, joggers along with the model yacht club as a result the road is now being used much more and is in need of upgrade.

Sally initiated the discussion by saying that the project looked like a repair and maintenance project. Sheila said that the group were looking to upgrade the path to a high standard due to the high number of groups and individuals who now used the path. Bryan suggested that the Community Council un-adopted roads scheme may be a more suitable source of funding. Sheila confirmed that the community council had awarded some funds towards the project. Michael said that the project has been on the back burner for a while and that lottery funding such as Awards for All could be a source of match funding. Alec said that he had been on the path and it would be necessary for the group to confirm that they had a suitable access agreement in place. Fiona said that it would be good to include promotion and signage for the walk to open up access further. Sheila said that from conversations with the applicant by improving the access it would make the path accessible to people in wheel chairs and would be away from the main road.

Fiona asked LAG members if they felt that the project was a good enough fit to the Local Development Strategy. LAG members were in agreement that the project did look like it could fit with the LDS and should be invited to complete a full application.

SHE026 Shetland Recreational Trust, New central reception and Fitness suite.

Shetland Recreational Trust would like to make better use of space available at the Clickimin Leisure Centre. The Trust would like to make changes to the main entrance area so that there is one entrance to the centre and one reception rather than two, to build an extension on the side to house a new accessible fitness suite and to make better use of the space vacated by the current fitness suites.

Bryan and Annie declared an interest in the project but it was not considered necessary for them to leave the room.

Diana asked if the new gym would have different machines for people with mobility problems. Bryan confirmed that there would be assistance machines and machines which use specific bits of the body. Bryan added that the change to the access at the leisure centre would significantly reduce both energy lost from the swimming pool and the cold draft which blows into the swimming pool particularly around the baby pool near the entrance. Fiona asked if a feasibility study has been done, Bryan said that PJP had prepared some example drawings to give an indication of the work that could be done and an estimate of the cost. Alec asked if the project was driven by the Council. Bryan confirmed that some of the funding available at the moment was as a result of the agreement between the Council and Shetland Recreation Trust to build the new School on the site of the campsite. Jennifer added that it was possible that not all of the costs included may be eligible but following discussion

with James from the Shetland Recreational Trust this was acceptable. Douglas said that a cost benefit analysis would be required to demonstrate the wider benefit of undertaking the project to show that it was a good use of LEADER funds as the project would take a high proportion of the LEADER budget. Sheila added that the LEADER contribution could not be watered down to too a low level, as there was a balance to be considered on the benefit provided by the funding. Bryan confirmed that the Recreational Trust did have a reserve but they were working towards balancing their budget as the support received from the Charitable Trust was set to reduce. Michael added that other sources of funding were limited as the Recreational Trust has already received two large amounts from Sports Scotland in recent years. Bryan said that the manager at the Clickimin Leisure centre was working on figures for projected business growth, current predictions were between 10-15%. Fiona asked if the current facility was fully used. Bryan confirmed that the current facility was well used and was often full to capacity. In addition due to fire regulations one of the fitness suites can only be used by one person with mobility problems at a time and the other is inaccessible.

Fiona asked the LAG members if they were happy to invite the SRT to complete a full application. The LAG members agreed.

SHE027 Unst Partnership (Part A) and SHE028 Unst Partnership (Part B)

Fiona said that she did have an interest in the project from an HIE perspective as HIE had been involved in supporting UP.

Unst Partnership in conjunction with the North Isles Tourism Group have submitted two expressions of interest Part A for the recruitment of a North Isles Tourism Development Officer concentrating on supporting business development and young people and Part B for a Development Officer to support cultural intergenerational projects.

Kellie was asked to leave the room as she had a direct financial interest in the projects. Andy was invited to stay to answer any questions arising during the discussion on the project.

Douglas started the discussion by stating that the projects needed to have clear outcomes. Fiona said that the UP have successfully organised a series of events such as a writers retreat held at Gardiesfauld in April 2016. The event was well attended and there is potential to develop further packages to attract people to visit and stay in the north isles. The North Isles Tourism group do have a strategy and action plan which they are currently working through and updating as required.

Alec asked why there were two expressions of interest, Fiona said that it was not essential that the project was split some of part B could be moved into part A. Andy explained the split between the two projects Part A focused more on supporting businesses and young people while part B focused more on culture, intergenerational learning and skills development. Alec said that he was concerned about overload within the communities as the projects could add an additional two committees. Michael said that he was not aware of any discussions regarding the project through community development. Michael added that the Moving On project and the pipeline employability pathway were currently being tweaked with a change from outputs to outcomes, to help move people through the system rather

than pass from one to another. Douglas said he felt the Expressions of Interest were a product of squeezing deadlines and needed to be strengthened. Michael added that for part B there was already a number of organisations operating in this area it was particularly important to be clear on the need for the project and the outcomes. Sally said that it would be good if the traditional skills was open to a wider group as it was of interest to others.

Fiona summarised that the LAG were in support of Part A but further work was required for Part B. The LAG were in agreement that part A did look like a fit to the Local Development Strategy and it would be of benefit to continue and further develop the work being done at present. The LAG was also happy for Unst Partnership to move some items from Part B to Part A provided there was justification in the application.

SHE029 Scalloway Preschool, Outdoor classroom.

Following the move into bespoke refurbished premises at Scalloway Primary School the Preschool would like to develop an outdoor classroom. The project will involve the development of a decked area with native plants, interpretive panels with Shetland birds and plants, a weather station and a geology board. The area will be used for storytelling and outdoor play equipment. In terms of safety and shared resources there will be a connecting gate to Hame fae Hame in order to allow children to go straight between the two settings.

Diana declared an interest in the project but it was not considered necessary for her to leave the room.

Sally started the discussion by saying she felt the project was a good fit to the Local Development Strategy. Fiona said she felt it was a strong expression of interest and asked if match funding had been secured. Diana confirmed that match funding had not been secured but they were hopeful.

Fiona asked the LAG if they were happy for the group to be invited to complete a full application. The LAG were in agreement.

SHE030 Mind Your Head, Adult Support Service

Mind Your Head would like to develop an adult mental health support service to complement existing provision. It will provide low level tier 1 provision capable of developing the resilience of individuals so they are able to improve their quality of life.

Douglas initiated the conversation by stating it was well known how difficult it was to secure mental health support and that services did struggle to secure staff. Ann and June both said they felt the project was good.

Fiona asked the LAG if they were happy for Mind Your Head to be invited to complete a full application. The LAG were in agreement that the project did look like a fit to the local development strategy and should be invited to complete a full application.

SHE031 Family Mediation, Family Connections Shetland

Family Mediation are seeking funding to develop a pilot child contact centre. Shetland is currently the only area in Scotland which does not have the service and

through reviewing the families which have been facilitated through the family mediation service there is a recognised demand for the service.

Fiona said that the project does link to the LDS and the project is looking to the future and how it would be able to sustain itself after LEADER funding. Sally asked the location of the Service. Jennifer said that the funding sought was for a service development worker but the location would be all over Shetland wherever the service was required. In Lerwick the Bruce Family centre or an office at Family Mediation could be used. Outline arrangements were in place for locations outside Lerwick. Michael said that he had not been aware of the project and it would be good to get endorsement for the project from children and families.

Fiona asked the LAG is they were happy for Family Mediation to be invited to complete a full application. The LAG were in agreement that the project did look like a fit to the local development strategy and should be invited to complete a full application.

9 Ideas for Co-operation projects

Walks and Walking

Fiona provided an update to the LAG on progress on walks and walking event planned for the 19th November. An invitation list has been pulled together and all LAG members are welcome to attend. John Duffy from Paths for All has confirmed his attendance at the event and will be able to bring a wealth of knowledge on what is happening elsewhere in Scotland and other places for potential co-operation. Sheila added that the purpose of the event should be that it can stand alone and map out what has been done, where we are now, and what a priority there is to do more.

Alan checked if Paul Harvey was on the list, Jennifer confirmed this.

Sheila added that at the moment it was difficult to progress a co-operation project as the Scottish Government was still to come with guidance on co-operation. Fiona added that we do have applications forms

Day of the Region

Jennifer provided an update on her trip to Dumfries on Saturday for the Day of the Region Gathering event.

Jennifer said the meeting was interesting and worthwhile attending although not something which could be directly duplicated in Shetland but elements could be learned from. For example groups said the best thing about the 'Day of The Region' from a support provided perspective was the promotion and marketing of events. It was done in a professional manner and the shared branding meant in the future there were hopes that when people see the orange balloons they will come along, similar to what was seen in Ireland. In addition the groups said that funding was less important. One group had experimented to see how little they could run the event on relying on volunteers and donations, confirming that their event had been a success. In addition to the gathering event Jennifer also got to sit in on a bit of the steering group meeting held after. Due to the timing the discussions last weekend would be different if held this coming weekend. Last weekend's discussions centred on looking to the future and working with other groups to instil the LEADER approach and building up the infrastructure and resources to allow Day of the Region to continue without LEADER and the LAG.

10 AOCB

Sally made the LAG aware that the EMFF local scheme has been launched and this shares some of the LDS with additional priorities specific to the scheme.

Sheila said that following the news this morning with regard to funding promotion was very important. Jennifer is arranging for a stall at the Food Fair this year and we could also attend the craft fair. Fiona suggested that we could also send a letter around the tourism group.

11 Date of next meeting/closure

Next meeting on 30th November 2016

Meeting closed at 10:40