

Highland LEADER 2014 – 2020 Programme
Inner Moray Firth North LAP Meeting
6.30 – 8.30, 24 August 2016, Aness Heritage Centre

Attendance:

Jennifer Barclay	(Public)
Helen Barton	(Private)
Val Cameron	(Private)
Tom Davis (Chair)	(Private)
Sheila Fletcher	(Private)
Alan Hasson	(Private)
Robert James	(Private)
Betty Lochhead	(Private)
Angela MacLean	(Public)
Ana MacPherson	(Private)
Iain McCallum	(Public)
John McHardy	(Private)
Jillian Munro	(Private)
Franca Reid	(Private)
Hannah Ross	(Private)
Helen Ross	Advisory

Judith Wainwright, Highland LEADER Programme

Apologies

Carolyn Wilson has resigned from the LAP due to personal reasons and she will be replaced by Martin Rattray, however Martin sent his apologies as he had to attend another meeting. Apologies were also received from Jodi Riddler and Gordon Robertson.

Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the last meeting held on 29 June 2016 were proposed as an accurate record of that meeting by Franca and seconded by Sheila.

Judith reminded the meeting that photos and narratives are required from some members for the Highland LEADER website and it was agreed that Helen R would take photos at the end of the meeting.

Action: if not already provided

The other action points were completed.

Highland LEADER – Programme Update

Judith presented a few slides which provided a brief update; the slides are attached as Appendix 1.

In discussing the Programme update, Judith agreed to forward a note from Fiona Cameron regarding the current position of the LEADER Programme in the light of Brexit

Action: JW

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Judith also advised the meeting that the LEADER Programme had been identified as one of 120 functions to be reviewed as part of the Highland Council re-design process. This is not considered to be a significant risk to the Programme, as LEADER is cost neutral, however this information is likely to be in the public domain shortly and may add to concerns resulting from Brexit.

Judith advised that the LEADER Team is currently reviewing the application process and how best the new system 'LARCs' can be used, as it is not very user friendly. If used as intended, all LAP members would require system training in order to review and assess applications. Judith offered to provide a demonstration if anyone is interested in considering whether this is feasible or whether the LAP assessment should be based on a paper application. Any interested volunteers to get in touch with Judith.

Action All

The issue of The Highland Council (THC) providing a loan fund was raised; Angela agreed to speak to Derek Yule again, and Judith will raise the issue with Fiona, although she mentioned that as the person who had administered the fund in the last Programme has since left THC, resource may be the issue.

**Action:AM
&JW**

Expressions of Interest (EOI)

Judith updated the meeting on progress with existing EOIs, although only one new EOI has been received for the area since the last meeting.

Promotional Activity

Judith suggested a number of activities that could be undertaken to promote the LEADER Programme in the area. These suggestions are included in Appendix 1. Additionally, LAP members suggested:

- Community Councils
- Ward Managers distribution lists
- Possible feature in the North Star
- Seaboard Sail & Swap
- Social media

Judith will produce and circulate a local Communications Plan.

Action: JW

Project Assessments

Scoring Process

A number of members had scored the Pre-applications ahead of the meeting, however it was agreed that scores would be allocated on a collective basis at the meeting, following discussion of each Pre-Application. Members subsequently agreed that this process had worked well, with members changing their individual scores in a number of cases, having considered the views/challenges of other members.

Fyrish Gymnastics

Declarations of Interest: Gordon had previously declared an interest as a Board member, but was not present at this meeting. Val declared an interest as a Board member. Val left the room for the discussion and assessment of

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this Pre-application.

The Fyrish Gymnastics Club had submitted a Pre-application for £29,692 towards total costs of £38,692 to enable them to purchase specialist equipment & flooring, so that the club can expand its range of activities.

The Pre-application was discussed and a total score of 15/15 points awarded. The LAP felt that the Club had submitted a very comprehensive and strong case for funding.

As the estimated start date for the project is October 2016, the LAP agreed that assessment of a full application could be undertaken by e-mail ahead of the next meeting, if necessary.

Some minor comments were raised which will be fed back to the applicant as part of the LAP assessment.

Arts Revive the Seaboard (ARTS)

Declarations of Interest: Robert had previously mentioned that he was aware of the Hall as a resident and member of the Community Council, but it had been agreed that this did not constitute an interest. No other interests were declared.

Following submission to, and based on feedback from, the last LAP meeting, the Seaboard Memorial Hall had resubmitted their Pre-application looking for a reduced figure of £31,842 towards total project costs of £73,200 to enable them to develop and deliver a two years Arts Programme.

The LAP identified a number of points primarily around community support and need for the project, legacy and the need for a full time Arts Administrator, which will be fed back to the applicant as part of the LAP assessment.

Highland Area Aberdeen Angus Club (HAAAC)

Declarations of Interest: Jennifer declared a potential interest as she has shares in the Dingwall mart, but this was not considered to constitute a conflict.

The HAAAC had submitted a Pre-Application for £15,000 towards costs of £26,600 to host an event at the Dingwall mart as part of the World Aberdeen Angus Forum which is being held in Scotland for the first time in 40 years, next June.

The Pre-application was discussed and a total score of 8/15 points awarded. The LAP identified a number of points primarily around community/stakeholder support and engagement, costs and legacy which will be fed back to the applicant as part of the LAP assessment.

Ross-shire Transport Partnership

Declarations of Interest:

Sheila had previously declared an interest as she is a Director of RVA.

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Val had previously declared an interest as she is employed by RVA. Angela declared an interest as she was named in the application, as supporting it in her capacity as local member. Jillian had previously advised that one of the Accountants at the Firm she works for, audits the accounts of RVA; the LAP had not considered that this constituted an interest. Sheila, Val and Angela left the room for the discussion and assessment of this Pre-application.

Following submission to, and based on feedback from, the last LAP meeting, Ross-shire Voluntary Action had resubmitted their Pre-application looking for a reduced figure of £41,263 towards total project costs of £81,108 to develop a community transport scheme in Ross-shire which would be similar to that set up by RVA on the Black Isle.

The Pre-application was discussed and a total score of 12/15 points awarded. The LAP identified a number of questions around potential displacement, costs, and the proposed staff post. Additionally they requested more detail about plans to reduce reliance on external funding resource requirements, should the applicant proceed to full application. These points will be fed back to the applicant as part of the LAP assessment.

Next Meetings

The next meeting will be held on 26 October. A further meeting is pencilled in for 7 December as it was anticipated that not all of the Pre-Applications being assessed at this meeting will proceed to full application in time for assessment in October.

Meetings for 2017 were agreed as:
8/2, 10/5, 16/8/ and 15/11.

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