

**HIGHLAND LEADER 2014 – 2020 PROGRAMME
WESTER ROSS, STRATHPEFFER AND LOCHALSH (WRSL) LAP MEETING
10:30AM – 13:30PM, 23 AUGUST 2016, ACHNASHEEN HALL**

Public Voting Members Present: Lindsay Simpson, Mary Gibson, Roddie MacKenzie, Biz Campbell, Richard Greene,

Private/Community Voting Members Present: Fran Cree, Kristine Mackenzie, Amy MacDonald, Norma Ross, Clara Hickey; Evie Strange, Siobhan Osborne, Carla Lees

Advisory/Non-Voting Members Present: Robbie Bain

In Attendance: Liz Whiteford (LEADER Development Officer); Yvonne Boa (HighLife Highland)

Apologies: Ian Cockburn, Tristan Southall, Tom Forrest

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:

AM welcomed everyone and it was intimated that Tom Forrest has resigned due to health and family reasons

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST / REGISTER OF INTEREST FORMS:

- Kristine Mackenzie declared an interest in the Lochcarron Community Development Co (LCDC) Forest Access & Enterprise project – agreed to withdraw from any discussion on this project
 - Lindsay Simpson declared an interest in the SWT CALLP Volunteer & Training Officer project and the Gairloch Heritage Museum Our Land, Our People, Our Story project – agreed to withdraw from any discussion on both projects
- Lindsay also mentioned that she had previously been involved with the LCDC but was no longer involved – members agreed that there was no need to withdraw from discussion on this project
- Biz Campbell declared an interest in the Strathpeffer Pavilion Business Development and Community Engagement project – agreed to withdraw from any discussion on project
 - Clara Hickey declared an interest in the Strathpeffer Pavilion but as a 'Friend' - members agreed that there was no need to withdraw from discussion
 - Fran and Richard declared an interest in the Gairloch Heritage Museum but had no direct involvement with the organisation or project - members agreed that there was no need to withdraw from discussion
 - Councillors Greene and Campbell highlighted that, in their role as local councillors, they had a general interest in many organisations and projects in the WRSL area but members agreed that there was no need for councillors to declare interests or withdraw from discussions unless they had a direct involvement in the applicant organisations/projects or direct involvement in the approval of any funding for the applicant organisations/projects.

Members were reminded of the need to keep their register of interest up to date by notifying Liz Whiteford of any changes to the information already registered

NOTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

Note of 22.5.16 LAP meeting (previously circulated) was accepted as an accurate record of the meeting. Proposed by: Norma Ross / Seconded by: Clara Hickey

MATTERS ARISING and not arising elsewhere:

Nothing further to report on whether the THC interest free loan service will be reintroduced but bridging loans might be available from Social Investment Scotland

<http://www.socialinvestmentscotland.com/index.php?cID=571>

DEVELOPMENT OFFICER UPDATE:

- Future WRSL LAP meeting dates listed below
- LARCS, the new online LEADER application system, is now live and Development Officers have received training.
- 21 EOIs received as at 23.8.16 of which 2 have been withdrawn and 2 related to Private Business/Rural Enterprise Enterprise - no LAP Member discussion on EOIs.
- 7 Pre-application forms issued as at 16.8.16 of which 6 have been completed and returned requesting a total of £189,935 of LEADER grant.
- No Full Application forms submitted to date
- Rural Enterprise/Farm Diversification Sub-group of the LAG now formed and currently developing eligibility criteria/priorities. Grant funding thresholds previously agreed as Maximum £100K and Minimum £5K. More information expected after the 31 August LAG meeting.
- Currently awaiting news from Scottish Government about possible impact of UK's decision to exit EU on the LEADER programme budgets and timescales. All LAP members should have received an email update and further information will be circulated when available.
- THC, as the accountable body, will not be issuing offers of LEADER grant until the Scottish Government can provide assurances that the current indicative LEADER budgets and the LEADER Programme period will continue to be honoured following the result of the EU referendum
- LAP members were asked to promote LEADER and to try to identify potential LEADER eligible projects especially those that had their match funding in place and could quickly complete and claim
- Equalities Reference Group - Project assessment/scoring criteria agreed and projects scoring less than 6 will be referred to the ERG for advice/support relating to best practice.
- Slightly amended Pre-application Form and Guidance notes have been agreed by the LAG – this form and stage will be reviewed by the LAG after 3 months (5 of the 6 pre-application forms received to date are old style). All future Pre-application forms submitted should be new style.
- DOs will complete a technical check of Pre-application forms checking: project fit with LDS outcomes/activities; project suitability for LEADER as opposed to other SRDP funding; that level of LEADER funding requested fits local area criteria; and for any identifiable LEADER ineligible activities) with LAPs undertaking the assessment/scoring of pre-application forms as per the assessment/scoring template provided.
- Currently the deadline for receipt of Pre-applications is 1 month prior to LAP/LAG meeting at which it will be considered and deadline for receipt of Full Applications is 2 months prior to LAP/LAG meeting at which it will be considered.

PRE-APPLICATION ASSESSMENT/SCORING x 6:

Scores and feedback comments to be provided to applicants

LAAP Review: LAP members undertook at short review of their Local Area Action Plan and decided that there was no reason to make any amendments to the existing funding considerations or LAP membership at this stage.

AOCB:

- Paul Burden, Youth Worker has not nominated any youth representatives to replace Alexander and Robynn.
- Siobhan and Evie, youth representatives, have left school and are withdrawing as LAP members but Carla Lees has agreed to act as WRSL LAP youth representative supported by Yvonne Boa, Youth Worker. Yvonne will continue to try to identify youth representative(s) willing to support Carla if she feels that this is necessary.

FUTURE WRSL LAP MEETING DATES, VENUE AND TIMINGS:

Tuesday 22 November 2016 – 10:30 to 12:30 - Achnasheen

Tuesday 21 February 2017 - 10:30 to 12:30 – Achnasheen

Tuesday 23 May 2017 - 10:30 to 12:30 – Achnasheen

Tuesday 29 August - 10:30 to 12:30 – Achnasheen

Tuesday 28 November - 10:30 to 12:30 - Achnasheen