



**North Pennine Dales Leader LAG - Minutes of Meeting held on
Wednesday 1st June 2011 at UTASS, Middleton-In-Teesdale.**

Attendance:

Peter Samsom, Andrew Walker, John Atkinson, Shaun Stuart, Catherine Pearson, Cliff Brown, Sue Ellwood, Rosemary Thompson, David Fruin, Fiona Green, Ian Forbes, Jeremy Ancketill, Jon Williams, Lesley Millgate, Richard Betton, Jim Anderson, Janet Seaman.

1. Apologies:

Cameron Scott, Charlotte Hursey, Hazel Coppack, Lucy Wearne, Natalie Connor, Pam Forbes, Robyn Peat.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

SE mentioned that PS had asked for some slight amendments to the minutes which were then agreed as a true record and were duly signed by the vice-chairman, PS, as he had chaired this meeting.

Matters arising from minutes:

PS asked for an update on the potential complaint being made and SE said that it had come through the National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO) to ONE and a meeting has been arranged for 15th June with Adrian at ONE and a representative of NCVO. CP asked if this meeting was to try and avoid an official complaint with all parties present. SE said she was unable to attend this meeting due to another commitment that day and there was some concern from some of the LAG members about this. JimA felt that if it was an informal meeting and not an official complaint, then SE should be there. However, SE said that Adrian at ONE had been fully briefed to deal with this meeting on 15th June.

CP mentioned that the offer letter had not been issued as conditions had not been met and SE reported that they hadn't secured funding for their core costs. RB informed the LAG members that they will be kept updated on this.

3. Declaration of conflict of interest

JA mentioned that he was not commercially involved but has had dealings with the North Pennine Dales Wood Fuel and Sandy & Black Pig Company projects.

4. Spend Profile

SE said this was to be changed to Spend & Commitments and asked CP for an update as there had been no new spend since the last meeting.

CP said there were no new commitments in the new financial year and between the accrued and money paid out there was a difference of £12,000. A total of £16,000 would come out of this year's allocation and she said that she and SE would sit down and go through individual projects. The claim to ONE for May was £126,999 whilst expenditure in May was £17,154. RB asked if the group needed to agree to CP and SE going through this process as the previous meeting had not been quorate – the group did agree to this. SE added that £500,000 was allocated for this year and at the moment only a few projects were coming through so reminded LAG members to promote Leader wherever possible and RB added that he certainly did not want to have to return any money back. IF raised

the issue of the LAG commissioning projects and SE said it could be a possibility if the demand is there and is not covered by any other organisation. However, the group would have to act quickly for this financial year.

Action: RB suggested LAG members think about this and to add it to the Agenda for the next meeting.

CP said that the delivery plan will be signed off next week and added that £500,000 is a huge amount to spend before March 2012 and RB said LAG members could possibly get ideas by seeing what projects were in adjoining areas and see what could be extended or replicated in our area.

5. EOI's submitted

SE began by saying that despite a lot of publicity, the call for projects under the Micro-Enterprise measure had not generated many EOI's.

NPD129 Allendale Cycle Hub – Becks Bikes

SE then went on to say that this EOI did come through the call for projects and explained the background of the organisation being involved in outward bound activities with accommodation but with no cycling up until now. With Leader funding, they want to do everything from cycle hire to organising daily to longer tours. The capital costs are £10,000 with 50% contribution. CB asked about the Tweed Valley cycle hub and SE said they are aware of this and want to replicate it in Allendale. PS added that this organisation is very entrepreneurial so will make it work if anyone can. IF asked about marketing and SE said they had built up a good network of contacts to promote this new activity plus including marketing would delay the application. CP added that there could be jobs created also and SE said they intend to employ people for 9 months of the year, 7 days a week. Both CP and JimA said the hours could be averaged out over the year. JA wondered about the sustainability after 5 years but RB said that would come out in the TA.

The group agreed to invite a full application.

NPD130 Sandy & Black Pig Company

SE told the group that the applicant's father has the farm and she wants to develop a rare pig breed, build up the herd and sell them at farmers markets, to local restaurants etc and online. The funding is to convert a garage to a processing plant and she wants to employ a cousin who has special needs. The EOI is for £8,918.55 with 50% contribution and would be under Measure 312 – Micro Enterprise.

PS raised the point that the group had agreed that Micro Enterprise projects would be for a max. of £3,000 funding and SE said that each application should be treated individually with some flexibility. SS felt that the group had given this figure based on practical experience. PS said he was happy to fund this project but wanted to see more market research to check there was a market for this pork. RB agreed and was concerned about it affecting local butchers as there were many under capacity at the moment. IF said he would like to see good quality product branding included in the costs of this project and would there be issues over employing family members. SE replied that full transparency would be needed and initially it would just be the husband and wife.

JA wondered if it would be better under Measure 311 Diversification. It was agreed to change this to Measure 311 and the group agreed to invite a full application.

NPD131 Isaac's Tea Trail

SE said this was an established walk but was now looking for more publicity and wanted funding to install signage and re-printing leaflets. The signs would have information on places of interest on the trail. CB thought £6,000 was a lot for signage but PS thought it was cheap. CB was also concerned over their contribution of only £700. SE said the leaflet was mostly just given away so the Allendale Trust wasn't making any money from these. RB wondered if it was

innovative with just re-printing leaflets and PS agreed saying the leaflets would have to be re-designed. The issue of funding marketing was then discussed as the trail has been developed by one person and needed new leaflets and a new website as well to attract visitors from other parts of the country. DF asked if an "app" for this had been considered and SE said she had discussed this also.

JW asked if any of the local attractions would pay towards the leaflets or would the local authority make any contribution. SE said that attractions were not actually being named in the leaflet itself and the group felt that the latter was not a possibility in the present economic climate.

The issue of outputs was raised and SE said they were not tangible enough though RB suggested counting the number of hits to the website or collecting stats from local businesses if they were included in an insert to the leaflet. JA added that other recognised walks have badges, certificates etc for walkers which would be an idea for this also.

RB summed up the group's conditions on marketing, giving the leaflets a complete refresh and to ensure an element of partnership working was involved and then a full application would be supported. PS offered to talk to the applicant once he's heard from JimA/SE about the marketing issue.

Action: JimA to let SE know about funding marketing activities

NPD132 Witton Castle Country Foods

SE said that this is on a caravan park which has recently changed ownership and there is a new shop looking to expand into cycle hire for the caravan visitors and locals. It would come under Measure 313 Tourism and the EOI is for £4500 funding. CB pointed out that the costs of bikes were more than the earlier EOI but this would be sorted out in the procurement process. Duplication of cycling at Hamsterley was queried but this would be a different cycling experience. IF wondered if it would bring in more visitors and SE said the caravan users would be encouraged to cycle out of the park and use local pubs etc. SE explained that the shop was managed by a different person to the caravan park so details of tenure would need to be checked out. SE said this would provide additionality to what the shop already offered. JA added that often caravanners are pretty much self-sufficient but SE said potential future development of the site would encourage more visitors. PS felt it should be supported but it needs good research into usage and demand for it.

RB summed up the group's feelings to invite a full application but with a limit of £3000.

NPD133 North Pennine Dales Wood Fuel Supply Development

SE explained how Northwood covered many other parts of the region but not in this area. They would work with suppliers and under-managed woods to ensure consistent quality of wood fuel. It comes under Measure 331 – Training / Economic Support. She asked JimA how they had received 90% funding in Northumberland

CP asked if this will help other businesses and JA felt it would as it is an integrated package to achieve consistency of product and educate all businesses in the supply chain. CB felt that this application ticks all the boxes and RB thought it was worthwhile but the double funding issue needed checking. SE added that at present there was no consistent approach in wood fuel at a time when many people are turning to wood burning stoves. JW asked how much wood fuel there is in the North Pennines and SE said that Northwood have these figures but a lot is currently unmanaged.

The group agreed to invite a full application from this EOI.

Action: JimA said he'd check this out plus possible double funding in view of the Landskills project.

6. Full Applications

None to discuss at this meeting.

7. AOB

SE mentioned the event at Fountains Abbey on Wednesday 8th June, all LAG members were invited and she offered transport for anyone who wanted to go with her.

SE welcomed and introduced a new LAG member, Lesley Millgate to the group. Lesley works at DRCC and replaces Ken Hazelwood as the LAG member from that organisation.

8. Date of next meeting

The next meeting is at Harehope Quarry, Weardale on Tuesday 28th June.

SE added that the date for the following meeting after this, at UTASS planned for 27th July, needs changing and asked what date the group preferred. It was agreed that SE just re-arranges the date and let LAG members know as soon as possible.

These minutes are a reasonable reflection of what was said and agreed.

Richard Betton –
North Pennine Dales LEADER Chairman

Date -----