

**Argyll and the Islands LEADER Local Action Group Meeting**  
**Committee Room 1, Kilmory, Lochgilphead and Lync/Teleconference**  
**Thursday 21st June 2018 10.30 AM**

**MINUTE OF MEETING**

<b>LAG Attendance</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Sector</b>
	Iain MacInness (Chair) (IMaI)	Cowal Area Network	non-public
	David Adams McGilp (Vice Chair) (DAM)	Visit Scotland	public
	Colin McLean (CMcL)	HIE	public
	Alastair Fleming (AF)	Scottish Islands Federation	non-public
	Iain Johnston (IJ)	Kintyre Cultural Forum	non-public
	Stuart Shaw (SS)	Scottish Natural Heritage	public
(phone conference)	Reeni Kennedy Boyle (RKB)	Fyne Futures	non-public
<b>LAG Apologies</b>			
	Lucy Sumsion (LS)	NFU Scotland	non-public
	Hannah Robinson (HR)	LLTNP	public
	Arlene Cullum (AC)	Argyll & Bute Council	public
	Marina Curran Colthart (MCC)	Argyll & Bute Local Biodiversity Partnership	public
	Alistair McLaren (AMcL)	Third Sector Interface	non-public
<b>In Attendance</b>			
	Ishabel Bremner (IB)	Argyll & Bute Council (Accountable Body)	
	Kwasi Addo (KA)	Strategic Co-ordinator	
	Mary Simpson (MS)	Argyll & Bute Council (Accountable Body)	
	Lynn Rew (LR)	Development Officer	
	Annemarie McLean	Compliance Officer (minutes)	

**1) Sederunt and Apologies**

Iain MacInnes as Chair opened the meeting at 10:45am and welcomed all to the meeting, in particular the new Development Officer, Lynn Rew, This was followed by a round of introductions for the benefit of all. Kwasi Addo announced his resignation

**1.1 Sederunt**

Attendance were noted as above.

**1.2 Apologies**

Apologies were noted as above.

**2) Declarations of Interest**

Declarations of interest will be noted at each project.

**2.1 Quorum**

Seven LAG Members participated with six LAG members in attendance and one participating by phone conference, four non-public members and three public members, the meeting was quorate.

**2.2 Register of Interest**

LAG members were asked to complete a Register of Interest form.

**2.3 Conflict of interest/Risk Matrix**

These forms were made available for members.

**3) Minutes**

**3.1 Minute of 15<sup>th</sup> March, Committee Room 1, Council Offices, Kilmory, Lochgilphead**

Minute was approved with no changes

**Proposer & Seconder**

Minutes were proposed by David Adams McGilp

Minutes were seconded by Iain Johnston.

**3.2 Signature of minute**

**3.3 Matters arising from previous meeting.**

KA advised that an update would be provided in agenda items 4.2 and 5.2.

#### 4) Progress Reports

##### 4.1 Co-ordinator's Reports

##### 4.1.1 Financial Report

KA provided members with an update on the budgets. A copy of the financial information will be emailed to members.

##### 4.1.2 Expressions of Interest (EOIs); EOIs progressing to LARCs; LARCs applications submitted; LARCs applications meeting technical eligibility; project update

KA provided members with an overview of the current processes regarding the above and the steps being taken to support applicants through the application process. There was a general discussion about the processes and what is currently in the pipeline. Members were advised that most LAGs are struggling to commit the Farm Diversification and Co-operation budgets because most farmers have already diversified and it is difficult to align Local Development Strategies Themes and Objectives.

##### 4.1.3 American Academics Meeting – Oban 11<sup>th</sup> April

KA provided an update on this visit which was facilitated by Dr Elliot Meador from Scotland's Rural College, and hosted in the SNH Offices, Oban. Visiting academic delegates from the University of Missouri met with AF as the LAG representative; MLH as the Accountable Body representative; and KA and LR in their roles of Strategic Coordinator and Development Officer. The focus of the visit was on the sociology of rural development issues in Scotland and abroad. The visit was good for relationship building and it was interesting and surprising to learn that there were a lot more common issues between both areas, than differences. Unfortunately the LAG cannot enter into a project with this group as it is not a constituted LAG and cannot develop projects. This has been fed back to Dr. Meador by the Accountable Body. There will be a report provided by Dr Elliot Meador which will be circulated to members when it becomes available.

11.12am - Fire Alarm all present left the building.

11.32am - Meeting re-convened with the same attendees present.

##### 4.1.4 Scottish LEADER staff meeting update – Shetland 22<sup>nd</sup>/23<sup>rd</sup> May

KA and LR representing A&I LEADER, attended the Scottish LEADER Staff Group meeting in Shetland. The meeting was very informative and the key discussion points included:

- Peter Ross (Chair of the LAG Chairs Group) discussing the promotion of LEADER success stories, and gathering evidence through VIIMA (<https://app.viima.com/scottish-rural-network/the-future-of-community-led-local-development-in-scotland-/>) to demonstrate the need for a successor to LEADER post-Brexit.
- SRN team update and willingness to provide support to LAGs looking to develop Co-operation projects.
- Farm Diversification and Co-operation Projects – general lack of uptake in all areas.
- Post 2019 to Dec 2020 arrangements and challenges discussion.
- Project Presentation showcase – Mind Your Head (Shetland).
- GDPR and LARCs.



## **4.2. Accountable Body Report**

### **4.2.1. Accountable Body Meeting 27th June update and Ministerial update from 3.3**

From 3.3 - IB advised that the meeting between the Council Leader and the Cabinet Secretary did not go ahead as the minister had another engagement. The communications just now are trying to be more positive, looking for solutions or work arounds on LARCS.

The next Accountable Body meeting is on 27<sup>th</sup> June. There was a general discussion about the agenda and issues that would be covered. IB will circulate the minutes when they become available.

## **4.3 GDPR**

The Scottish Government has confirmed that LARCs is GDPR compliant as it is only used for its intended purpose.

## **5) Items for LAG Consideration**

### **Change Requests**

Members were provided with a copy of the supporting documentation uploaded to LARCs relating to both Change Request.

#### **1 - 04/P00009 Applicant: J K & C Bone Project Name: Glenkiln Riding Centre**

Members were advised that there were no declarations of interest when this project was considered. There were no declarations of interest for this change request.

KA read out letter applicant uploaded to LARCs detailing the request and the reason for this. In summary the applicant asked members to consider an increase in the value of the grant awarded to cover the increase costs for SSE to provide an electrical supply to the building with the applicants providing the match funding.

SSE is the only agency approved to carry out these works as it is the provision of a new electrical supply. The estimate obtained from SSE at time of application was approximately £1,600 but the updated quotation received is £27,737.20

### **Questions**

- Will any other element of the project suffer/not be carried out in order to for the applicant to cover these eye watering costs?
- As a LAG do we have the authority/ability to approve this request?
- Have the applicants sought/considered alternative energy sources?

KA advised that the actual building works are nearing completion and electrical works/costs were identified at the outset, but hadn't been included in the LEADER project as the applicant was going to cover the SSE costs of getting the supply and that in the previous programme there were a couple of examples where the LAG had approved requests for additional funding for the same project.



## Comments

- A member's organisation had a similar example where a client/applicant had received a dramatic increase in the quote from SSE.
- As the various consents have already been provided for the project the applicant may not be able to seek alternative sources of energy without affecting these and possibly causing more costs and delays to the project delivery.

## Decision

Members wanted it noted that as SSE is the only organisation authorised to install a supply that is connected the national grid that both the LAG as group and the applicant have been left with no alternative but to accept the price for these works.

**All members approved the request to include the costs related to SSE and extend the date of the project to allow the works to be completed.**

**Decision: APPROVED**

## 2 - 04/P00007 Applicant: Argyll and Bute Council Project Name: Argyll and the Isles CHArts Place Partnership Plan

Members were advised that there were no declarations of interest when this project was considered. JJ declared an Amber declaration of interest and SS offered to step out of the meeting to preserve quorate, both members left the room.

Five LAG Members participated in the discussion, IMaCl Chair, (non-public); AF (non-public); RKB (non-public) (via phone conference); DAM (public) and CMCL (public). Three non-public and two public, the discussion was quorate.

The project are asking to extend the date of the milestones to facilitate smoother delivery, clarify the consultants deliverables within the main contract, now that the contract is let and update the project plan in line with this. The reason for the request is the contract took longer to let than originally anticipated, this has resulted in a delays to the project timescales.

There was a general discussion about the project, members felt this was quite a technical request and asked for clarification.

KA advised members that the main changes related to clarifying what the main consultant would deliver now that the first contract was let and that as in the initial application there is another three contracts still to be let. The delays in getting the main contract let has resulted in a new timeframe being agreed.

**All members approved the request.**

**Decision: APPROVED**

Due to timescales, members decided to consider the applications (Agenda Item 6) as these need decisions, before discussing items 5.2; 5.3; 5.4 and 5.5 which could be considered by email if necessary.



## 5.1 Budget Considerations (for discussion)

KA advised members that they had previously asked what intervention rates are offered by other LAGs, detailed in a handout provided, and what the potential was for increasing the intervention rate for Themes 1 and 2 –to encourage more applications from Community Groups. There was a general discussion about pipeline figures and members asked that the table detailing other LAG intervention rates, the pipeline finance information and a question:

The LAG to allow a Discretionary Upper Limit to the intervention rate for LEADER Themes 1 and 2 projects of up to 70%, to be determined on a case by case basis.

LAG members were unable to make a decision on this item due to some LAG members having to leave the meeting, leaving it non-quorate. The remaining members agreed to follow this up by written procedure.

## 5.2 Repeat Applicant, Different Project

KA asked members what comments they would have on applicants applying for a different project. There was a general discussion with members agreeing that all applications are considered in their own merits - it is the strength of the individual application and evidence that it is a separate project referencing different needs and outputs.

## 5.3 Programme Timeline

KA advised that he will circulate a reminder of the Programme timetable along with proposed dates for each stage before the March 2019 deadline for members to consider.

## 5.5 Co-operation Projects

KA advised that there are currently no applications to consider.

## 6) Consideration of Applications

### 1 – 04/P00072 - Beachcomber Guesthouse Project Name - Beachcomber Guesthouse

No declarations of interest.

<b>LDS Theme</b>
Theme 3: Farm Diversification and Small Business Support
<b>Objective</b>
Small Business Support

Scoring submitted prior to meeting			
Average Score	Number Scoring	High	Low
30	8	35	21

Applicants are looking for a Decision in Principle for two reasons:



- a) The applicants have not yet applied for a Building Warrant as they do not want to incur the costs associated with this process unless the application to LEADER is successful; and
- b) Part of their match funding package is a commercial loan, approval of which is subject to confirmation of LEADER funding.

KA advised that a query has been raised to the Scottish Government as the applicant has only asked one provider for a decision regarding commercial lending.

### Comments

- Tiree desperately needs the flexible accommodation that this application seems to provide clever solution to/deliver.
- Strongly support the view that this type of accommodation is really needed on Tiree.
- Totally support the idea of the project but have concerns that the costs may not be sufficient/robust enough to deliver this.
- The process of applying for a Building Warrant has in the past led to a change/increase in the estimated project costs.

### **All members agreed to issue a Decision in Principle subject to:**

1. Subject to the response from the Scottish Government, as LEADER is a funder of last resort the applicant should provide evidence to support that they have approached a minimum of three companies to enquire about commercial lending.
2. Confirmation that a Building Warrant has been granted and eligible costs aligned this.
3. Confirmation that match funding is in place to cover the costs of the project.

**DECISION: APPROVED IN PRINCIPLE SUBJECT TO CONDITIONS**



## 2 – 04/P00079 – Mull and Iona Community Trust- Fionnphort to Pottie Path

No declarations of interest.

<b>LDS Theme</b>
Theme 2: Enhancing the services and facilities in the Argyll and the Islands area to attract individuals, families, visitors and investors to grow and maintain economically viable communities
<b>Objective</b>
Objective 1: To support community-based initiatives to improve or retain access to services for those living within rural areas and to encourage people to come and live in these communities.

Scoring submitted prior to meeting			
Average Score	Number Scoring	High	Low
30	9	40	10

Applicants seeking a decision in principle, subject to confirmation that the SIS Bridging Loan application has been granted.

### Comments

- There was a general discussion regarding location of the existing path/route.
- The application doesn't mention it but there is an existing route in place although this is longer than the proposed route.
- An issue with the existing path would be safety.
- Currently there are no registered safety concerns, there are no recorded accidents.
- The costs seem to be excessively expensive in relation to the length of the path.
- This project is not an income generator for anyone and no clear economic benefit.
- Given the significant costs involved, LAG members questioned the merit of the cost of the paths verses the facility and demographics it would be servicing.
- The wider community benefits are not clear.
- An Expression of Interest for funding for this path was rejected, on technical grounds, by the Scottish Government Rural Tourism Infrastructure Fund as this fund addresses visitor pinch points; although the route is very busy it is not a pinch point.
- Mull is busy but due to the ferry timetables it is predictably busy as a large volume of traffic is day trippers to Iona.
- As with other applications, this was difficult to score but was scored highly because of accessibility that the other path doesn't have.
- If the project is being match funded by Sustrans it will be of a good quality and the costs will be considered as Sustrans is known for demanding a high spec and this will factor in lower maintenance costs.
- Looking at the community links angle - Sustrans is difficult to get funding from. The application focuses on active travel, safety and accessibility, not economic development.

- There may be a rationale for making a link to the village hall but hard to justify the link to Pottie, but this is not enough to justify the costs/demand for the path.

The Chair asked members to vote:

Those in favour - 1 vote

Those against – 6 votes

**REJECTED**

### 3 – 04/P00082 – Confirming the Significance of Kilmartin Glen's Archaeology

No declarations of interest.

<b>LDS Theme</b>
Theme 1: Strengthening the rural economy by maximising the sustainable use of our natural, cultural and heritage resources as an economic driver.
<b>Objective</b>
Objective 1: To support capacity building, research and development to identify and implement development opportunities.

Scoring submitted prior to meeting			
Average Score	Number Scoring	High	Low
31	9	38	20

#### Comments

- Concerns about the implication of becoming a World Heritage Site, gaining this status may stifle development, e.g. extra restrictions for various consents - Kilmartin is a working landscape.
- Attaining this doesn't always bring tourism and other economic benefits. Does Kilmartin have the resources to deal with the increase in visitors to the area?
- Other areas that have been granted this status have seen real benefits but these do not happen overnight, examples in Slovenia and the Lake District, which is also working landscape.
- "Confirming" is a poor word – Kilmartin is a very important site but suffers from lack of infrastructure for those travelling to visit, but this lack of infrastructure is a national issue.
- The ambition is to put Kilmartin on the international map.
- They have secured £6.8 million development, this application complements that and would support the direction they want to go in.
- It's a good project but concerned about sustainability, as closed in the winter.
- This has the potential to add to the sustainability of the larger project/development. The process of going through the process of becoming a World Heritage Site may be as good for Kilmartin as actually gaining the status.
- They would have to use a high/world class consultant - the report is a real benefit from this project.

The Chair asked members to vote: - All members approved.

**DECISION: ALL MEMBERS APPROVED**



#### 4 – 04/P00083 – Lorn and Oban Healthy Options Ltd. - Developing Healthy Communities

No declarations of interest.

<b>LDS Theme</b>
Theme 2: Enhancing the services and facilities in the Argyll and the Islands area to attract individuals, families, visitors and investors to grow and maintain economically viable communities
<b>Objective</b>
Objective 1: To support community-based initiatives to improve or retain access to services for those living within rural areas and to encourage people to come and live in these communities.

Scoring submitted prior to meeting			
Average Score	Number Scoring	High	Low
31	9	38	20

#### Comments

- This sounds very similar to projects funded within the previous programme.
- Don't see LEADER funding the social side of this, a key part of the role/post will be the Business Planning work which is really important. This will look at how they secure future funding, this is crucial to sustainability and how they move forward. At the moment there is successful formula/sustainable model for this type of service.
- This type of project looks at addressing health inequalities –there are some real gaps within the NHS and other organisations at the moment.
- The service is something that is really needed in rural communities but are they trying to go about it the right way? Scottish Government is putting a lot of money into this already.
- This is why the business planning is a key outcome – it could develop/come up with a model that could be shared/transferred within the sector.

**DECISION: ALL MEMBERS APPROVED**

2pm – IJ left the meeting, six LAG Members participated, in the discussion for agenda items 5.2, 5.3, 5.4 and 5.5 - with five LAG members in attendance: IMAcl Chair, (non-public); AF (non-public); DAM (public); CMcL (public) and SS (public) and 1 participating by phone conference RKB (non-public).



## 7) AOCB & Date of Next Meeting

KA announced his resignation due to him undertaking teacher training, thanking the LAG members for their support since he joined. The exact date has yet to be confirmed. IB confirmed that the post will be advertised and there was a general discussion about this.

IMaCl thanked KA on behalf of all members for the work he has done and wished him all the best for the future.

### Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting will be 20<sup>th</sup> September 2018, at the same venue, Kilmory, Lochgilphead.

IMaCl thanked everyone for their attendance and input to the meeting and closed the meeting at 15:30pm.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_