



# Northumberland Uplands Local Action Group



The European Agricultural  
Fund for Rural Development:  
Europe Investing in Rural  
Areas

## The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development: Europe Investing in Rural Areas

5.30pm – 9.30 pm, Thursday, 2 April 2009  
Greenhead Village Hall, Greenhead

### Northumberland Uplands Local Action Group (NULAG):

Adelle Rowe  
Anna Charlton (Vice Chair)  
Anne Lowrie  
Elizabeth Rowark  
Elizabeth Stewart  
Heather Hunter  
James Cookson  
Marie Whitehead  
Michael Nixon  
Mike Murray  
Paul Nicoll  
Roger Wilson (Chair)  
Wendy Bond

### Northumberland National Park Authority:

Director of Corporate Services  
LEADER Local Action Group Co-ordinator  
LEADER Local Action Group Admin Officer

Stuart Evans  
Tom Burston  
Sophie Lewington

### One NorthEast/Northumberland Strategic Partnership:

RDPE Sustainable Communities Specialist Advisor

Michael Patterson

### NULAG Apologies Received:

Anthony Murray  
John Wilson  
James Saunby  
David Clubb  
Vincent Milburn  
Stuart Moss  
*Phil Biggs*  
*Richard Walton*

## 1.0 Welcome from the Chair

- 1.1 Roger Wilson welcomed everyone to the meeting and expressed his thanks to Wendy Bond, Featherstone Farming Pantry and Greenhead Youth Club.

- 1.2 Apologies were received from the above members..
- 1.3 Roger Miket's resignation was noted.
- 1.4 Project Update: 4 projects had been approved with £169,000 committed out of a budget of £875,000 to April 2011. 59 EOIs had been received to date.
- 1.5 A summary was given on the March RDPE Network Conference.
- 1.6 It was explained that there was currently no central mechanism for inter-LAG co-operation and that it was up to NULAG therefore to initiate and forge relationships with other LAGs.

## **2.0 Notes and Actions of the Previous Meeting**

The Notes and Actions of the meeting on Monday, 2 March 2009 were approved as a true and accurate record.

## **3.0 Project Applications**

### **3.1 NUL028 – Reach Out – Tynedale Women's Training Group**

There were no declarations of interest.  
The applicants gave a brief presentation on their project.

This project roles out a model of training to 5 villages in rural Northumberland Uplands that targets women in those communities. The model has already run in villages across Tynedale. Against NULAGs purely numerical key performance outputs this project offers good value for money in delivering skill days. One and a half jobs will also be safeguarded and 5 'informal' learning networks will be created/supported by this endeavour.

#### **Vote:**

It was agreed to support the application. 8 members voted to support the total fund approved of £34,945 (4 declined).

### **3.2 NUL035 – Enterprise Learning Network**

Roger Wilson declared an interest.  
The applicant gave a brief presentation.

This project aims to work with young people to raise awareness of rural businesses and encourage entrepreneurial activity amongst young people. The project will be based in and around high schools. Against NULAG's purely numerical key performance outputs, this project appears to NULAG to offer extremely high value for money in starting up new micro-businesses (30 in whole project) and in terms of providing advice and training to young people.

#### **Vote:**

It was voted unanimously not to support the application. With respect to deferment, 7 members voted to defer the application (3 voted against deferment).

### 3.3 **NUL010 – Developing Northumberland Communities**

Anne Lowrie declared an interest but the LAG decided she did not have to leave the meeting  
The applicants gave a brief presentation on their application.

This project aims to work with communities in the Northumberland Uplands in order to support them in a number of ways, including: community based planning; developing and supporting partnership working; strengthening governance of groups and identifying training and funding opportunities. This application specifically offers to assist applicants in their application to NULAG, and to assist NULAG in its engagement with project applicants. Against NULAG's purely numerical key performance outputs this project offers some value for money in terms of supporting community and business networks.

#### **Vote:**

7 members voted not to support the application (4 voted for it).

With regard to deferment, 7 members voted against (4 members voted to defer the application).

### 4. **ID8**

#### **Summary:**

Tom explained that another application had been received from REACTION which had not yet been considered due to eligibility issues raised in Technical Appraisal. In order to move this forward, Stuart Evans had come forward with the following suggestion for the LAG to consider:

The proposal was for REACTION to recruit three young business people to become LAG members. A small sub-group would then be created and awards and mentoring could be provided by these young business people via the LAG, with a small contract allowing REACTION to co-ordinate the project. After discussion, It was agreed the LAG was interested in the project in principle. The following LAG members volunteered to develop the idea: Anne Lowrie, Heather Hunter, James Cookson and Anna Charlton

### 5. **CRC**

Discussion was had over the recent CRC consultation in Alnwick and whether the LAG should make collective representation or not. It was agreed for Tom to circulate an email with web links so that members could reply on an individual basis.

### 6. **Any Other Business**

#### Younger Representation with the LAG

After discussion, it was agreed to invite Mark Mather to join the Local Action Group.

#### LAG Away Day

It was agreed to discuss this further at the next LAG meeting.

### International Links

Further thought would be given to forging international links.

### Community Sustainability

Wendy Bond outlined how the whole of Greenhead had been transformed by the improvements at the hall and how it had contributed to the sustainability of the community.

### Communications

Mike outlined all the good PR networking that had been achieved and how the monthly communications updates were proving very helpful and that articles on project applications would be produced once the contracts were signed.

### Births and Marriages

Adelle informed the LAG that, with effect from the next LAG meeting, she would be on maternity leave and Roger advised that Michael Patterson was getting married on 8<sup>th</sup> April. The best wishes of the LAG were conveyed to both.

## 7. **Date of the Next Meeting**

The next LAG meeting would be at 5.30pm on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2009 at Falstone Village Hall.

**The meeting closed at 9.45pm**