



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, Monday, 2 March 2009
The Cheviot Centre, Wooler

Northumberland Uplands Local Action Group (NULAG):

Adelle Rowe
Anna Charlton (Vice Chair)
Anne Lowrie
Anthony Murray
Elizabeth Stewart
Heather Hunter
John Wilson
Marie Whitehead
Mike Murray
Roger Wilson (Chair)
Stuart Moss
Vincent Milburn
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:

David Clubb
Elisabeth Rowark
James Cookson
James Saunby
Michael Nixon
Paul Nicholl
Phil Biggs
Richard Walton
Roger Miket

1.0 Welcome from the Chair

- 1.1 Roger Wilson welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- 1.2 Apologies were received from the above members.

- 1.3 Roger thanked everyone for their efforts since the last meeting.
- 1.4 He expressed his thanks to the Wooler Young People's Association who were providing the catering for the meeting.
- 1.5 Project Update: £140,038 had been committed so far with the three projects Traditional Boundaries, Traditional Skills, Haydon Tourism Gateway Initiative and Cheviot Futures. To date, 55 EOIs had been received and NULAG are the first mainland group to approve any grants.
- 1.6 Roger, on behalf of NULAG, formally thanked NNPA for the fantastic job that had been done on producing the website.
- 1.7 Roger explained that one advantage of the recent audit was that it highlighted gaps in NULAG's processes and he stressed the responsibility that NULAG had to its applicants.
- The question of whether training should be given to LAG members on technical appraisals was discussed.

2.0 Notes and Actions of the Previous Meeting

The Notes and Actions of the meeting held on Thursday, 11 December 2008 were approved as a true and accurate record.

3.0 Expressions of Interest

- 3.1 Tom proposed that, similar to the October meeting, to divide the members into small groups to consider the 13/14 EOIs.
- 3.2 It was explained that decisions should be recorded on the appraisal forms and that one person from each group would provide feedback.

3.3 NUL041 – Social Enterprise Northumberland

This EOI was recommended for refusal.

3.4 NUL049 – Countrywise Consultants Ltd

It was agreed to defer this EOI but that the LAG would like to hear more about it.

3.5 NUL053 – KP Food Craft Fair

It was agreed to proceed to full application.

3.7 NUL048 – Barrasford Village Hall

This was deferred for redevelopment and requires a LAG member visit.

3.8 **NUL037 – Business Skills Training**

This EOI was deferred for redevelopment.

3.9 **NUL050 – Horse Power for Ability**

This EOI should proceed to full application with conditions. It requires a visit from a LAG member.

3.11 **NUL032 – Hadrian’s Wall Heritage Ltd**

This EOI was deferred for redevelopment.

3.12 **NUL044 – Wooler Young People’s Association**

This EOI was deferred for redevelopment.

3.14 **NUL038 – A Peart Hareshaw Farm**

This EOI should proceed to full application, with conditions.

3.15 **NUL047 – Glendale Childrens Show**

This EOI should proceed to full application but awarding £2,000 per year for five years and with conditions.

3.16 **NUL051 – Teamwork UK**

This EOI was deferred for redevelopment. Further information is required and a LAG visit recommended.

4.0 **Project Applications**

4.1 **NUL022 - Slate and Nature**

The applicants gave a brief presentation on their application.
No LAG member declared an interest.

This project introduces new slate work technologies and original natural designs into West Woodburn and the Northumberland Uplands. It also offers new opportunities for aspiring small businesses to learn from a successful micro-manufacture start-up. It is also a new location for art tours in the region. The project is focussed on the construction of a studio, a workshop and storage shed for Slate and Nature. The main outcome from this will be the start up of a new small business. It will also provide space for provision of seminar activities for potential start-ups, particularly in micro-manufacturing. A core value of the business is its links with the natural environment. The created products all use recycled and reclaimed materials and the project therefore seems to fit with the NULAG commitment to using natural assets in a sustainable way.

There is a lot of evidence of support from local artists and neighbouring businesses. The prototype development work that the applicant has already invested in has yielded a large number of future orders that cannot be fulfilled within present premises. By meeting these orders 1.5 full time jobs will be created in the local economy and a viable micro-business will start up. The applicant worked for many years as a design engineer for Philips and a lecturer at Northumbria University so is amply qualified to deliver this project.

Vote:

With the exception of one member, all voted in favour of this project for the total amount of £29,814.

5.0 General Update

5.1 Roger thanked everyone for their assistance with the recent audit.

5.2 Partner Support Group

It was reported that Partner Support Group should be up and running in the next few weeks. It is envisaged that this group would meet twice a year but be available to provide advice all year round.

5.3 RDPE Network Conference – 18/19 March 2009

Roger Wilson and Tom will be attending this conference on 18/19 March 2009.

5.4 Communications

- Roger reiterated his thanks to NNPA for the LEADER website
- Mike Murray and Tom Burston have drawn up a communications strategy.
- The possibility of media training for LAG members was under discussion.
- Meetings with NCC and the local newspapers would be organised shortly.

5.5 Claims and Expenses

Tom outlined submission deadlines for the claim periods. Explanation on the travel and subsistence form was given and further assistance can be sought from Sophie or Tom via the telephone.

6.0 Any Other Business

None recorded.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm