



Northumberland Uplands Local Action Group



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

NOTES AND ACTIONS Local Action Group Meeting

17.30 – Thursday, 4th February 2010
Reed Hall, Bellingham

Northumberland Uplands Local Action Group (NULAG):

Roger Wilson
Anne Lowrie
Anthony Murray
Elisabeth Rowark
James Cookson
Mike Murray
Michael Nixon
Pat Beaumont
Wendy Bond

Northumberland National Park Authority:

Director of Corporate Services
Local Action Group Co-ordinator
Local Action Group Administration Officer

Stuart Evans
Tom Burston
Sylvia Byerley

Northumberland County Council: One NorthEast:

Heather Smith
Michael Patterson

NULAG Apologies Received:

Adrian Sherwood
Chrisi Page
Anna Charlton
Elizabeth Stewart
James Saunby
Mark Mather
Heather Hunter

1.0 Welcome from the Chair

The chairman called the meeting to order and welcomed all members to the first LAG meeting for 2010.

He announced the birth of member Anna Charlton's baby son and gave apologies for Anna Charlton, Adrian Sherwood, Chrisi Page, Elizabeth Stewart, Mark Mather and James Saunby.

The chairman informed members of the formal resignation from the committee of members Marie Whitehead and David Clubb, he proposed and members agreed that he should write to said members to thank them for their contribution to the LAG.

2.0 Notes and Actions of the Previous Meeting

The Notes and Actions of the previous meeting held at Glanton Village Hall on the 4th November 2009 were declared a true and accurate record.

3.0 Financial Update

Tom Burston distributed a one page report giving a breakdown of the current financial state of the LAG. This report reviewed the current project allocations and running costs for the Northumberland Uplands Local Action Group. It gave further details as to how approved project spend is profiled across financial year and detailed the running costs budget.

Heather Smith informed members that an additional 25% budget allocation has been assigned to the Northumberland Uplands Local Action Group for 2010/2011. This meant that in addition to the current allocation for 2010/2011 an additional £262,500.00 was now available for grant allocation which amounted to a 60% increase to the Northumberland Uplands Local Action Group budget for 2010. It was clarified that this increase was not across all Leader groups but performance based.

4.0 NULAG Members Update

Local Action Group Coordinator, Tom Burston, informed that with the resignations of members Marie Whitehead and David Clubb the total membership of the Northumberland Uplands Local Action Group was brought to eighteen members, but with two members currently on maternity leave the active membership has been brought down to sixteen active members.

Members were updated as to the current situation with regards to new member recruitment and informed that three applications had been received for consideration of membership to the local action group, two of which were from previous successful grant applicants.

Applications were read out from Alan Winlow, Ben Tansey and Gerard van der Veen. Members were reminded that both Alan Winlow and Gerard van der Veen were previous successful grant applicants to the LAG.

Members voted to accept all three applications, Tom Burston to inform the applicants.

Members were reminded that there were still several positions available within the LAG and that further recruitment was necessary to bring membership up to approximately 25 members.

5.0 Upcoming Dates to Note

Due to time constraints the discussion of Upcoming Events was moved to later in the meeting so as not to delay the applicant presentations. – See Section 7 for Upcoming Dates to Note

6.0 Project Applications

Four applications were presented for consideration. Members were reminded of the presentation format: 10 minutes for the presentation, 5 minutes for questions and 15 minutes for discussion.

NUL042 – Revitalisation & Regeneration of Bellingham & District

Members from the Bellingham District Trade and Tourism Association presented to the Local Action Group

Declared Interest: No Declared Interest

Summary:

- Innovation: The project applicant – Bellingham District Trade and Tourism Association – represents some 59 businesses in and around Bellingham. The

association will make use of the equipment at public events throughout the year and items will be available to members and non-members when necessary.

- Key Outcomes and Joined-Up Solutions: A couple of possible avenues have been mentioned for future ideas for the applicant, if this project is approved:
 - One LAG member suggested that some of this equipment could also be incorporated into the 'worklessness' project that will hopefully start in Bellingham soon, in a similar way to what's going on in Wooler.
 - Northumberland Tourism also suggested that Bellingham, while not in the Market Towns programme, could benefit from the methodologies that were used in other market towns in Northumberland, to put together their development plans. NT have offered the models and advice if needed.
- Need / Opportunity: Bellingham District Trade and Tourism Association has a large membership list so a number of businesses will benefit from the availability of this equipment. The application identifies a number of opportunities where this equipment will be used, including Bellingham's monthly fresh produce and craft market.
- Value for Money: Against NULAGs key performance outputs this project gives good value for money in supporting micro-businesses. The project would deliver against NULAGs high level objective 5: Develop Tourism and Recreation as it is aimed at improving the 'visitor offer' but would also delivery partly against high level objective 1: Support Micro-Enterprise Development and high-level objective 3: Assist Communities to Become More Sustainable.

Vote:

- Vote to support the idea – 7 For, 1 Deferred
- Vote to fund total requested amount – 7 For (*2 Suggested increasing the grant allocation but this declined*)

NUL076 - Kielder Camping and Caravan Site

Members of Kielder Limited explained gave the presentation.

Declared Interest: No Declared Interest

Summary:

- Innovation: This project application comes from Kielder Limited. The aims of Kielder Limited are the wellbeing and maintenance of Kielder as a thriving community.
- Key Outcomes and Joined-Up Solutions: The Campsite is an important income source for Kielder Limited. Improvements to the site infrastructure have the potential to raise those income levels and contribute to the ongoing sustainability of the community run company. Kielder Limited themselves are putting cash resources into the improvement programme. Other businesses in or near Kielder have indicated that they directly benefit from increased visitors to the campsite.
 - Support has been readily forthcoming from Social Enterprise Northumberland, who have put in a lot of time advising Kielder Limited on their governance structures.
 - Northumberland Tourism suggested this project is in line with priorities across the county, which include the development of the Kielder area. If successful, the project should approach the NT Business Team to see if there is any support available.
- Need / Opportunity: The case is made in the application form for the need for such improvements. The capital works have been identified locally by the Board of Kielder Limited and visitor surveys have also informed the decision to pursue this plan
- Value for Money: Against NULAGs key performance outputs this project offers reasonable value for money against supporting a community network. The project

would deliver primarily against high-level objective 5: Develop Tourism and Recreation but is also clearly linked to high-level objective 3: Assist Communities to become more sustainable

Vote:

- Vote to support the idea – 8 For
- Vote to fund total requested amount – 8 For

Action: Tom to advise the applicants of the LAG's decision

NUL080 – Recording Studio, Music Festival and Business Development

Paul Mason and Fiona Lander of LanderMason have the presentation.

Declared Interest: No Declared Interest

Summary:

- **Innovation:** This project application potentially puts Bellingham on the map as a local / folk music hub. Planning behind the first annual Bellingham Acoustic Music Festival is gathering momentum already. The line-up is full of local and national talent and local schools have been invited to participate. Paul Mason has had indications from other local artists that they would use the recording studio regularly, which supports the ongoing concept of Bellingham as a music hub.
- **Key Outcomes and Joined-Up Solutions:** Many letters of support have been received indicating backing for the overall plans. This suggests that a wide consultation has taken place and that there is a strong level of local support in and around Bellingham.
- **LanderMason** have links with Folkworks, which is based at the Sage in Newcastle and regularly link up with graduates from Newcastle University's folk music degree course. If the festival goes ahead Northumberland Tourism have indicated they could point them in the direction of some publicity avenues.
- **Need / Opportunity:** Following an early mail shot, tickets for the festival have already been sold and hotel and B&B bookings have been made in Bellingham. Clearly other local businesses are going to benefit from people coming to Bellingham from the festival and spending money. The musical line-up is also already full and musicians will directly benefit from the exposure they will get on that line-up.
- **Value for Money:** Against NULAGs key performance outputs this project gives good value for money in starting up a new micro-business. It will also support other micro-businesses in the area. The project would clearly deliver against NULAGs high level objective 5: Develop Tourism and Recreation but would also delivery partly against high level objective 1: Support Micro-Enterprise Development.

Vote:

- Vote to support the idea – 8 For
- Vote to fund total requested amount – 7 For, 1 Abstained

Action: Tom to advise the applicants of the LAG's decision

NUL036 – ID8

ID8 gave the presentation

Declared Interest: No Declared Interest

Summary:

- Innovation: This project application has been a long time in development. The idea was initially ineligible because RDPE rules do not allow delegated grants. The suggested process has been altered to bring young decision makers onto the LAG and thereafter a 'sub-group' of the LAG would make funding decisions. That suggestion has got round the delegated grant issue and could be a highly innovative approach to handling this question across England.
- Key Outcomes and Joined-Up Solutions: The application states that ID8 is aligned with the Princes Trust. There is however some concern at One North East that the project duplicates two programmes already running in the region. The technical appraisal has an outstanding issue to resolve. Namely that this project does not duplicate: 'Putting Enterprise in to Place' and 'Start Up Capital Grants Scheme'.
- Need / Opportunity: NULAG have a specific target to engage young people across the Uplands. One priority is to extend the participation of young people in business. This project clearly focuses on that priority.
- Value for Money: Against NULAGs key performance outputs this project clearly gives good value for money in the support it would provide to young people. The project would also deliver against NULAGs high level objective 1: Support Micro-Enterprise Development.

Vote:

- Vote to support the idea – Unanimously Against
- Vote to fund total requested amount – 7 Against

Action: Tom to advise the applicants of the LAG's decision

Summary of Decisions

A summary of the decisions was read out.

7.0 Upcoming Dates to Note

The following events were discussed and members invited to contact Sylvia if they were interested in attending.

- 7.1 NRN Seminar – 2nd March 2010, Mickleton – 'Future of the Uplands'
- 7.2 Visit from Leader Linne – 6th – 9th April 2010
The visit from Leader Linne was discussed as well as the possible linking of several projects across borders
- 7.3 Village Shop Event – Haydon Bridge
The possibility of co-hosting a 'Village Shop Event' was discussed further as several other Leader groups have also supported Local Shop applicant grants.
- 7.4 NULAG Visit to the Centre for Alternative Technology
Possible visit of Leader members to the Centre for Alternative Technology in Wales.

8.0 Any Other Business

- 8.1 Closing Comments from the Chair
The Chairman brought the meeting to a close and thanked the ladies of the Bellingham WI for catering the meeting.
- 8.2 Venue, Date & Time of Next Meeting – Thursday, 8th April 2010.
The date for the next NU Leader meeting was confirmed as Thursday, 8th April 2010 with the Lady Waterford Gallery as a possible menu.