



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, 8th April 2010
Lady Waterford Gallery, Ford

Northumberland Uplands Local Action Group (NULAG):

Roger Wilson
Heather Hunter
Alan Winlow
Anne Lowrie
Anthony Murray
Ben Tansey
Elisabeth Rowark
Elizabeth Stewart
Gerard van der Veen
James Cookson
James Saunby
Jennifer Hewitson
Mark Mather
Mike Murray
Pat Beaumont

Leader Linné:

Sven Sunesson POL
Annika Nilsson
Solveig Carlsson
Maria Benulic
Mette Adolfsson
Ylva Sandstrom

Northumberland National Park Authority:

Local Action Group Co-ordinator
Local Action Group Administration Officer

Tom Burston
Sylvia Byerley

Northumberland County Council:

One NorthEast:
RDPE Network

Heather Smith
Adrian Sherwood
James Elliot

NULAG Apologies Received:

Chrisi Page (One NorthEast)
Johnny Wilson
Michael Nixon
Michael Patterson (One NorthEast)
Stuart Evans (NNPA)
Vincent Milburn

1.0 Welcome from the Chair

Roger welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced our Swedish guests from Leader Linné. He also introduced the three new LAG members Alan Winlow, Gerard van der Veen and Ben Tansey, and conveyed his thanks to Tom for organising the meeting. Apologies were given for Chrisi Page, Johnny Wilson, Michael Nixon, Michael Patterson, Stuart Evans, Vincent Milburn, and Wendy Bond

The chairman called the meeting to order and introduced Lord Joicey, who welcomed the LAG and guests to Ford and Etal Estate and spoke to the members of the importance encouraging micro-businesses in rural estates as a way of fostering a healthier socio-economic climate within rural communities and more specifically the actions taken by the Ford and Etal estate to encourage such growth.

2.0 Notes and Actions of the Previous Meeting

The Notes and Actions of the previous meeting held at the Reed Hall, Bellingham on the 4th February 2010 were declared a true and accurate record.

Due to time constraints the administrative processes of the meeting were moved to later in the meeting so as not to delay the applicant presentations. – See Section 5 for Notes and Actions of the Previous Meeting

3.0 Introduction from Leader Linné

Annika Nilsson and Ylva Sandström of Leader Linné gave an overview presentation of how Leader functions within Sweden.

The purpose of Leader Linné was described as ‘to develop the areas unique values, support enterprising people and lay a foundation for a sustainable and creative society.’ It was explained the Leader Linné is situated in Småland, in the centre of southern Sweden. The area it covers is 7,046 km² and consists of six municipalities: Alvesta, Vaxjo, Varnamo, Markaryd, Ljungby, Almhult. The population of the Leader Linné area is approximately 92,000

The public transportation infrastructure of the area is well developed with an airport, Smaland Airport, which flies both national and international flights. Additionally Linné has rail links from Stockholm to Copenhagen and from Kalmar to Gothenburg. The leader area also has one of the Sweden’s fourteen universities, Linné University, the primary focus of training in towards forestry and agriculture.

The area consists mainly of forests, open areas and lakes with wood, art and design being both typical and unique to the area.

Leader Linné has 5 main goals:

1. Develop Companies and vital, entrepreneurial spirit
2. Take care and develop natural and cultural resources.
3. Develop flexible public transportations and small scale infrastructure.
4. Promote a good life environment, unique identity and open mentality
5. Put into focus environmental and climate work

Leader Linné had two types of projects:

1. Ordinary projects
2. Related small projects under “umbrella projects”

Ordinary Projects are run by applicants while umbrella projects are overseen directly by Leader Linné. They can initiate and fund these projects or research directly

Funding within Leader Linné is divided between 40% from the European Union, 30% financed by the Swedish state and 30% is financed by other public funds mostly by municipalities.

Apart from the above finance further private funding streams generate approximately 40% of the total value of leader funding which can be in the form of working hours, material, premises or cash.

Sven Sunesson thanked Annika and Ylva for the presentation and thanked NU LAG for hosting the Leader Linné visit. The formal signature by the two leader groups of the description of goals between them at the Swedish Rural Parliament between the 5 May 2010 and the 9 Mar 2010 was discussed. Members also discussed the possibility of further visits to various projects to exchange ideas and experience as well as the possibility of looking into joint projects between the two groups.

The NU LAG Co-ordinator also explained to members that although the Leader Linné is three times the size of the Northumberland Uplands it also has three times the population which allows for accurate comparative analysis between the two areas.

4.0 Project Applications

In accordance with the workings of the Northumberland Uplands Local Action Group, members are asked to declare any direct or indirect personal interests (including financial) in relation to the LEADER Applications presented for the meeting, and shall disclose the nature of those interests to the meeting.

The Northumberland Uplands Local Action Group will decide whether those interests merit exclusion from the funding decision, with the Chair reserving the right to make final judgment.

Two applications were presented for consideration. Members were told that the format would be slightly different for this meeting, the applicants would each have the standard 10 minutes for the presentation and 5 minutes for questions but that the usual 15 minutes for discussion within the LAG would be held for each applicant after both presentations had been made.

NUL097 – Hooked-Up Hot Spots

Robert Mayhew and Richard Austin from Northumberland National Park gave the presentation.

Declared Interest: Jennifer Hewitson and Anthony Murray declared interest

Score sheets:

- Members reviewed the collated score sheets and member feedback

Vote:

- Vote to support the idea – 13 Fore / 1 Against
- Vote to fund total requested amount – 13 Fore

Conditions:

- None.

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

NUL091 – Flodden Eco Museum

Neil Wilson and Chris Berges gave the presentation.

Declared Interest: No Declared Interest

Score sheet:

- Members reviewed the collated score sheets and member feedback

Vote:

- Vote to support the idea – 5 Fore / 8 Against
- Vote to defer or reject – 8 for deferral / 1 to reject

Members voted to defer the decisions on this project to allow time for additional work to be carried out on the proposal with regards to community and private sector support and funding, the possibility of the event to follow on from the Flodden commemoration and for more information to be supplied about the ownership of the project.

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

5.0 Notes and Actions of the Previous Meeting

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6.0 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 the financial year and detailed the running costs budget.

7.0 CRC Network – James Elliott (20.00)

James Elliott of the RDPE Network gave a brief presentation on the purpose of the CRC network and the services it offers to LAGs. The website is a source of support and networking for all RDPE groups across the entire RDPE network. It offers a linkage for them to share information on how they are delivering the RDPE Leader Approach.

The website not only acts as a central point for current events and information on activities of the various groups but acts as a discussion forum allowing them to express queries and concerns and to share views and opinions. Documentation can be uploaded and shared across groups.

The RDPE goes further in that it links to the UK RDP Network and to the EU and has a position on the EU Committee and EU Leader Sub-Committee. Through this association it has representation in one form or another on each of the relevant focus groups and helps inform policy on an EU level

8.0 NRN – Future of the Uplands [Mickleton], RDPE Network Conference [Dunchurch] & National Rural Network Rural Development Networking Conference [Belfast] (20.15)

8.1 - *Future of the Uplands, Mickleton*

Anne Lowrie reported on her experience of the event hosted in Mickleton by the NRN

8.2 - *Rural Development Networking Conference, Belfast*

Gerard van der Veen reported on the first UK Rural Development Networking Conference.

8.3 - RDPE Network Event, Dunchurch

Elizabeth Stewart and Mark Mather represented NU LAG at the event.

9.0 Any Other Business (20.30)

9.1 New Member Application

Local Action Group Coordinator, Tom Burston, read out the membership application of from Peter Murray to the LAG.

Members voted to accept the application, Tom Burston to inform the applicant.

9.2 Members Area of Website

Members were introduced to the new members area of the Website.

10.0 Closing Comments from the Chair

The Chairman brought the meeting to a close and thanked the Helen and Simon Hnederson and family of the Fenton Centre for catering for the meeting.

The LAG also presented a gift to Leader Linné Co-ordinator in celebration of her forthcoming wedding anniversary.

Venue, Date and Time of Next Meeting

The date for the next NU Leader meeting was confirmed as Wednesday, 9th June 2010 with the venue to be decided.