



# 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, 09<sup>th</sup> December 2010  
Tarsset Hall, Lanehead

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

Roger Wilson  
Heather Hunter  
Anna Charlton  
Ben Tansey  
Dagmar Winter  
Elisabeth Rowark  
Gerard van der Veen  
James Cookson  
Jennifer Hewitson  
Mike Murray  
Michael Nixon  
Peter Murray

### Northumberland National Park Authority:

Local Action Group Administration Officer  
Director of Programs and Specials Services (NNPA)

Sylvia Byerley  
Robert Mayhew

North Pennine Dales Leader Local Action member

Peter Samsom

### NULAG Apologies Received:

Alan Winlow  
Anthony Murray  
Elizabeth Stewart  
Anne Lowrie  
Wendy Bond  
Pat Beaumont  
Mark Mather  
Stuart Moss  
Stuart Evans (NNPA)

Local Action Group Co-ordinator  
Local Action Group Technical Funding Officer

Tom Burston  
Philippa Craig

### Northumberland County Council:

Carol Robinson  
Heather Smith

### 1.0 Welcome from the Chair

The chairman called the meeting to order and welcomed all to Tarsset Hall. Apologies were

given for NULAG Members unable to attend and the agenda for the evening was reviewed.

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

The Notes and Actions of the previous meeting held at Cambo Village Hall on the 12<sup>th</sup> October 2010 were declared a true and accurate record.

## **3.0 Project Applications**

### **NUL125 – Northumberland Uplands Broadband Training**

The applicant was not present as the application had previously been presented to the LAG.

Roger Wilson read the recommendations of the report by Keith McLeod, Independent Member of the NNPA Standards Committee, to whom the application process had been referred at the LAG meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2010. The recommendations were noted by LAG members present. It was agreed to circulate the full report with the meeting minutes.

**Declared Interest:** No individual declared an interest.

**Vote:**

- Vote to support the idea – For 12 / Against 0
- Vote to fund total requested amount – For 12 / Against 0

**Action:** Roger Wilson to advise the applicant of the LAG's decision

### **Summary of Decision**

A summary of the decision was read out.

## **4.0 Future of NU LAG**

In discussing the Future of NULAG there was a general consensus of the need for additional funding streams such as Leader programmes. However in discussing the possibility of NULAG continuing beyond the current Leader cycle some members were concerned that the LAG was at risk of being coming yet another legal status body. Members were concerned that in forming a company the essence of the bottom up approach to Leader may be lost but acknowledged that creating a legal entity to the LAG would allow for additional funding to be raised to augment that already allocated to the LAG on an annual basis up to 2013.

Elisabeth Rowark led the discussion on the document circulated earlier giving basic explanations of the various legal status options available to the LAG. How they chose to proceed with this would impact not only the legalities of the company formed but also influence how and where NULAG could seek additional funding streams. Additional considerations include the possibility of the LAG looking to link with other LAGs within the UK to form a federation.

Members acknowledged that should they continue down this route some of the existing LAG members might choose not to continue on the LAG committee.

Members were also made aware that should they form such an entity then there is a possibility that in the subsequent round of Leader a new LAG may be formed. However if

the LAG were to form a separate entity then they would in principle be able to bid to host subsequent rounds of the Leader program.

It was proposed that following on from the progress made in the 'Future of the Northumberland Uplands LAG' workshop held on the 9<sup>th</sup> November 2010 that the LAG consider holding a session to discuss and formalise a plan for the possible directions in which the LAG might head. Members requested that this meeting be held during the day rather than in the evening at a time and date which would allow all the existing LAG members to attend.

It was put to the LAG that they might use the second proposed meeting date of 2011 for this purpose, this would allow for any applications in the development process to be heard where possible in the January meeting and allow time for LAG members to ensure that they would be available for the proposed date of the 22<sup>nd</sup> February or for that date to be changed to allow for all LAG members to be present.

## **5.0 NU LAG Training in 2011**

Throughout the second part of the meeting the LAG were asked to write what they perceived to be the needs and requirements for training in 2011 onto Post-it Notes and place them onto the display board. The Chairman explained a proposal put forward by Leader Linne on EU-training and discussed with Leader Linne by Tom and Philippa during their recent visit to Sweden. This was added to the list.

Suggestions included:

- 'Local Experts'
- Workshops from experts on the four gap areas to that the LAG can develop better knowledge and understanding of these areas.
- Groups within the LAG becoming 'Experts' in each of the four areas of need.
- Training in how to Commission Projects
- EU- training together with Leader Linne.
- PRA – both participatory rural appraisal and participatory research and action
- Make use of the learning opportunities offer through networking with other leader groups across the UK.
- Host 'Update' workshops on LEP, Tourism, NCC, Forestry and changes come into practise.
- Make use of the Northern Rural Network Courses and Events.

The suggestions will be formulated into an overall plan for approval.

## **6.0 Co-Operation Projects**

LAG members were asked to suggest potential co-operation projects that might address the areas identified in the gap analysis and which areas they would wish to take a particular part in – namely:

- Young people and enterprise

Gerard van der Veen, Heather Hunter, Elisabeth Rowark

- Businesses using bioenergy

Heather Hunter, Elisabeth Rowark, Gerard van der Veen, James Cookson, Anna Charlton,

Ben Tansey

- Sustainable farming and forestry

Anna Charlton, Dagmar Winter, Ben Tansey, Jennifer Hewitson, James Cookson

- Employment and skills provision

Peter Murray, Heather Hunter, Elisabeth Rowark, Jennifer Hewitson, Gerard van der Veen.

As for the LAG training plan suggestions were put on post-it notes and placed on the relevant display board.

Suggestions for co-operation projects:

Project with Blyth Star Enterprises Embracing elements of all the above areas (Mike Murray)

Those LAG members not present at the meeting but wishing to join one or more of the above groups should contact the programme co-ordinator/Chairman

LAG members wishing to suggest co-operation projects should likewise contact the programme co-ordinator/chairman.

The Programme Co-ordinator and The Chairman will discuss with appropriate LAG members how best to take the suggestions forward.

7.0

### **Any Other Business**

The Chairman brought the meeting to a close and thanked Victoria Hedley for providing the catering.

The proposed dates for the NU LAG Meetings to be held in 2011 were given

- Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> January 2011
- Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2011
- Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup> March 2011
- Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> May 2011
- Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> July 2011
- Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> September 2011
- Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2011

The date for the next NU LAG meeting was confirmed as Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> January 2011, the venue to be decided.