

**Yorkshire Dales LEADER
Notes of Management Group meeting
9th June 2010, 10.00a.m. – 2.00p.m.
Middleham Key Centre**

Present:

Management Group:

Kevin Lancaster – Chair	Yorkshire Dales National Park
Prue Keigwin – Vice Chair	Community/rural services representative
Rita Lawson (Substitute)	North Yorkshire County Council
Cllr Margaret Atkinson	Nidderdale AONB
Mike Keeble	Heritage/culture representative
Ann Harding	Environmental representative
Colin Bailey	North Yorkshire Work & Skills Partnership
Stephen Ramsden	Agricultural representative
Cllr Jimmy Wilson-Petch	Richmondshire District Council
Graham Wilkinson	Community/rural services representative
Rachel Allen	Community/rural services representative

Support Officers:

Rima Berry	LEADER Co-ordinator
Catherine Maudsley	North Yorkshire County Council

1. Apologies for absence:

Mark Haynes	Hambleton District Council
Cllr John Fort	North Yorkshire County Council
Tom Wheelwright	Business-/tourism representative
Cllr Les Ellington	Harrogate Borough Council
Cllr Richard Foster	Craven District Council

Kevin Lancaster, Chair welcomed Rachel Allen who has now joined the Management Group as a new community/rural services representative. A further representative for the position of Business representative has been identified and the LEADER Team is currently processing the relevant documentation. The nominee is David Doorbar and the Management Group agreed to his membership once all the paper work had been received and sorted. Following this process RB and RL will issue a formal invite and hold an induction meeting with him prior to the next meeting of the Management Group.

2. Minutes from previous meeting

There was an error noted in the minutes of 14th April 2010. Under Item 4, Financial Programme Update – 2nd paragraph ‘tight review’ should read ‘light review’.

3. Matters arising from the minutes

There will be a mid term review of LEADER Dales focusing on what has been achieved to date and what can be improved under the six priorities for the rest of the programme. The 29th June has been set aside for this review which had been originally expected to take place in September 2010 however Yorkshire Forward has advised this be done sooner rather than later. To assist with this review Rima is looking to engage as many people as possible in order to seek ideas and feedback on the way forward. Norma and Catherine will be assisting at the event and some of the LEADER support group have been co-opted to attend.

Rima is also holding two informal sessions, pending the deadline in September for applications to the Parish Caretaker scheme. Ann Harding agreed to assist at the Langcliffe event. It was expected that there would be a lot of interest in this round. Rita

explained that if there over commitment for this round's allocation then she would approach Yorkshire Forward to determine whether an increase in the Dales LEADER funding were possible. In the event this wasn't possible, the next available solution open to the Management Group would be to agree, subject to Yorkshire Forward's agreement, a virement between Measures. The dates of the two meetings are: Tuesday 6th July at Langcliffe Main Hall, 10.30 – 1.00pm; and Thursday 8th July at Muker Pubic Hall, 10.30 – 1.00pm. Gillian Muir, the 'Caring for the Parish' support officer will also be there.

The Way of the Roses which had been agreed at the previous meeting of the Management Group in April could be considered through written procedures unfortunately could not happen. It is therefore been included for consideration on today's agenda.

4. Financial update

The Yorkshire Forward annual review for 2009-2010 has now taken place for the Moors, Coast and Hills and the Yorkshire Dales. The Dales LEADER programme were unfortunately not able to draw down their full allocation for 2009-2010, which amounted to just short of £200k and under the rules of 'use it or lose it' this amount cannot be carried forward into the following year; it is therefore lost to the Dales LEADER programme. This funding however will not have been lost to the Yorkshire and Humber region as it went back into the overall RDPE Programme and allocated to other areas of the RDPE Programme. Some capital projects were held up because of the harsh winter, and which contributed to the under spend, however despite seeking to retain the funding through a reprofiling of the LEADER funding unfortunately Yorkshire Forward could not agree to this. The only way in which this loss can be recovered in later years is on the proviso that the Dales LEADER programme can demonstrate, not just over commitment of funding, but also accelerated spend. Yorkshire Forward however cannot commit at this point to any guarantees that this is achievable. To date the Management Group has committed just over £1m to Dales projects which is a significant achievement since the first approvals were only made in August 2009. The 'in year' targets that were to be achieved were as follows:

Measure	No. Supported Actions Forecast	No. Supported Actions Committed	No. of Supported Actions Achieved
321 – Basic Services for the economy and rural population	5	17	0
322 – Village renewal and development	5	22	0
323 – Conservation and upgrading of the rural heritage	2	7	0
421 – Implementing co-operation projects	1	1	0
431 – Running costs etc.	3	-	14
Other			
	Forecast	Committed	Achieved
Number of co-operating LAGS	2	1	0
Information and networking events aimed at agricultural sector	-	-	64
Number of participants in actions	82	-	170

However, the caveat to these figures is that, even though it could be considered that they have been achieved, these can only, according to the guidance from Yorkshire Forward, be claimed when the projects are totally complete. Totally complete is defined as all physical works/activity completed together with the associated funding. Ultimately this translates as that any projects approved, which class as an 'action supported' will not be able to be counted until possible two or three years after it has started. Yorkshire

Forward however will be looking to see if we can capture the outputs as the Programme progresses, rather than just at the end.

In 2010-2011 it will be necessary to be more prudent in forecasting spend of the projects to avoid Quarter 4 payments being disproportionate to the preceding quarters; a scenario which occurred for all LEADER programmes in 2009-2010 and that Yorkshire Forward are keen to not see happen for 2010-2011. Projects will therefore be required, each time they submit a claim, to provide a forecast of their future claims. This will enable the LEADER Team to identify any projects that are falling behind during the year. It will continue to be made clear in all correspondence to projects that if they do not claim their grant as predicted then they will lose the money. The management of spend and monitoring of projects is paramount.

RL congratulated the Management Group for the work they have done over the previous year. Toward the end of this year it will be necessary to refresh the Management Group however RL proposed that in order to maintain continuity this doesn't happen and that individual vacancies are filled as they occur. The Management Group agreed to this action and were happy to broaden the group if there were any requests to join. RL will put forward this proposal to the wider LAG and report back to a later meeting.

RL to consult with wider LAG

A meeting will take place on 10th June between the Moors, Coast and Hills and Dales teams to discuss the final updates of the documentation involved in the application and claims process. There have been several amendments to the paperwork as the scheme has evolved in order to make the forms more 'user friendly' to benefit both the applicant and the team. Once the final versions have been agreed the team will issue both Management Groups with a new pack that they can exchange for the information already in their handbook.

The position on RDAs etc since the formation of the coalition government is still being discussed. Tom Riordan, Yorkshire Forward had recently held a meeting with the Chief Executive Officers of all Local Authorities within the Yorkshire and Humber region where all of the contracted and potential projects were gone through. This comprehensive list has been forwarded to Ministers in Westminster where it is expected the decisions will be made. The majority of YF's budget is from DCLG for regeneration and economic development. Funding for programmes at risk in North Yorkshire include Renaissance Market Towns, Rural Capitals, low carbon pilot schemes, Welcome to Yorkshire, York and North Yorkshire Partnership Unit, Scarborough Borough Council's renaissance projects and the Rural Access to Opportunities Programme. All of which are expecting to take large cuts.

Any loss or reduction to the RAOP funding could have an effect on LEADER applications as there will be limited match funding available. At present no cuts to RDPE/LEADER are planned and so for the time being it is "business as usual". Those who would have used RAOP as match may be required to look elsewhere and be more creative. This situation needs to be monitored as it could be that we will have to consider being more flexible and revert to allowing some 'in kind' contributions. This however would mean extra work for the team during the claims and monitoring process and those involved in the projects but it could be the only alternative.

The Management Group were reminded of the process of LEADER in that NYCC is the 'accountable body' who deliver the programme on behalf of Yorkshire Forward the Regional Development Agency for Yorkshire and the Humber. YF are guardians of the money which comes from the Rural Development Programme for England and they in turn report to Defra and the Rural Payments Agency. This is why all decisions made by the Management Group are sent to Yorkshire Forward for endorsement.

Kevin Lancaster requested that for future meetings that NYCC provide a brief report.

5. Declarations of interest

The following declarations of interest were recorded:

Project ref	Project name	Management Group member
LDR/D/2010/053	Community Hub Richard Whiteley Theatre	Ann Harding
LDR/D/2010/055	Establishing an Outdoor Business Network	Kevin Lancaster
LDR/D/2010/059	Worcnet	Ann Harding
LDR/D/2010/060	Upper Nidderdale Heritage Lighting Scheme	Stephen Ramsden
LDR/D/2010/062	Network Facilitator	Margaret Atkinson
LDR/D/2010/062	Network Facilitator	Stephen Ramsden
LDR/D/2010/063	Yorkshire Dales Farmers Network	Stephen Ramsden

6. Deferred project – LDR/D/2010/053 The Community Hub at Richard Whiteley Theatre

Grant requested: £54,000

Total project costs: £135,000

Ann Harding declared a prejudicial interest and left the room.

This project was deferred at the previous meeting for the following reasons:

- Lack of evidence around partnerships
- Complimentarity
- Insufficient genuine commitment to public outcome

Andrew Beale has been in discussion with RL and RB and the Management Group are required to make a decision on the additional information that has been submitted today.

- The 'letter of support' from Settle Victoria Hall was not the firm agreement expected and that there was no clear evidence of a partnership being in place.
- There was not the detailed usage by the community groups and the school as had been expected.
- Community use in school holidays would be reduced as this was the time for repairs and maintenance. The school is closed for two weeks over the Christmas period.
- The school will offer the theatre and facilities for an average of 14 hours minimum a week for 42 weeks of the years. They hope to exceed the target of 14 hours
- The Group were expecting more detailed availability by community groups
- Can this be monitored?
- If the community usage is not what was promised could funding be withdrawn?
- If conditions are in place at the beginning of the project and included in the offer letter funding could be withdrawn if the conditions are not adhered to.

The Management Group are still supportive of this project; however the approval given is subject to two very strong conditions; as follows:

- a) That a formal commitment to cooperate is drawn up with Settle Victoria Hall and signed by both parties, and
- b) The provision of a further statement by Giggleswick School to confirm that the usage of the proposed Community Hub will be a minimum of 14 hours per week and during the hours of 9.00am to 9.00pm.

The applicant, Giggleswick School, will also be informed that until the above two conditions have been met and finally agreed by the Management Group, either by written procedures or at its next meeting on 11th August 2010, their project should not commence. Any expenditure commitments therefore that the school may enter into and in the event that the Management Group's final decision is not to support then these are done solely at their risk and the cost fully borne by Giggleswick School. Equally, should the Management Group's final decision be to approve the project then the 'eligible' start date will be that of when the Investment Decision has been signed off by YF.

7. Project applications seeking approval:

a) LDR/D/2010/055 Establishing an Outdoor Business Network

Grant requested: £5,240.00

Total Project Costs £6,550.00

Kevin Lancaster declared a prejudicial interest and left the room. Prue Keigwin took the meeting as Vice Chair.

The project was **approved** as a pilot and awarded **£5,240.00**

b) LDR/D/2010/059 Worcnet Full Circle

Grant requested: £26,000.00

Total Project Costs: £32,500.00

Ann Harding declared a prejudicial interest and left the room.

The project was **approved** and awarded **£26,000.00**. An email will be circulated to the wider LAG and the support group for a volunteer to join the steering group of the project.

RB to email for volunteer

c) LDR/D/2010/060 Upper Nidderdale Heritage Lighting Scheme

Grant requested: £8,229.00

Total Project Costs: £13,743.00

Stephen Ramsden declared a prejudicial interest and left the room.

The project was **approved** and awarded **£8,229.00**

d) LDR/D/2010/61 Yorkshire Subterranean Society - Extension

Grant requested: £50,000.00

Total Project Costs: £102,014.16

Rita asked the Management Group if they would be prepared to increase the original amount that the society had applied for. The applicant had been in contact as they were concerned they will not reach the target of member donations that they first envisaged and would not therefore be able to arrive at their proposed income targets. They have requested an additional £11,158.00. The Management Group agreed to increase the offer.

The project was **approved** and awarded **£61,168.00**

e) LDR/D/2010/062 Network Facilitator – Estate Business Opportunities Scheme

Grant requested: £30,750.00

Total Project costs: £39,510.00

Margaret Atkinson and Stephen Ramsden declared prejudicial interests and both left the room.

The project was **approved** and awarded **£ 30,750.00**.

f) LDR/D/2010/065 North Yorkshire Credit Union

Grant requested: £91,057.04

Total Project costs: £113,821.30

RL informed the Management Group that this project has been temporarily withdrawn pending a meeting with the officers from LEADER Moors, Coast and Hills, Rural Access to Opportunities and LEADER Dales to discuss a way forward for this applicant who has applied to all of the funds. There are matters to discuss such as the logistics needed for the claims and monitoring processes for potentially three funding schemes. This project may therefore be presented at the next panel in August.

Co-operative Projects seeking approval

g) LDR/D/2010/056 Rural Trans-national Exchange and Development

Grant requested: £19,940.00

Total project costs: £24,950.00

The project was **approved** and awarded **£19,940.00**. A recommendation was made that the applicant made contact with Ian Hunter, of the Rural Cultural forum. Also that the Dales LEADER Co-ordinator, as part of her role within Co-operation projects, ensures that the project does focus on co-operation with other LAGs in the countries identified and is not solely focusing on the Creative businesses.

h) LDR/D/2010/058 Sowing the Seeds

Grant requested: £20,000.00

Total project costs: £20,000.00

The project was **approved** and awarded **£20,000.00**.

i) LDR/D/2010/063 Yorkshire Dales Farmer Network Trans-national Project

Grant requested: £19,825.00

Total project costs: £19,825.00

Stephen Ramsden declared a prejudicial interest and left the room.

The project was **deferred** to the next Management Group on 11th August 2010. The Management Group has requested that the applicant submits a full work programme building on the dissemination events, (minimum of 2) and a final evaluation report. In addition the Management Group wished to see a clearer project description outlining what they are seeking to achieve and future impact. The applicant will be made fully aware that the deferral is not a guarantee of approval or LEADER funding.

j) LDR/D/2010/064 Way of the Roses Public Art Project

Grant requested: £4,000.00

Total project costs: £18,000.00

The project was **approved** and awarded **£4,000.00**.

8. Any other business

A project called Energy Audit for Community Buildings is being submitted by Rural Action Yorkshire. RB asked that the Management Group consider this by written procedures as the next panel date is not until 11th August and ideally the project would like to start in July. It links in with an earlier project, Yorkshire Dales Sustainable Communities, which the Management Group approved in October 2009 and is being carried out by Ryedale Energy Conservation Group Limited. The RAY project dovetails into this as a similar exercise but focusing on community buildings only. It is expected to request £11,000

from LEADER. The Management Group were happy to receive this project by written procedures.

Ann Harding wanted to update the Group on recent successes of the Settle Hydro Scheme as a recipient of LEADER funding. Awards they have received recently are: 2010 Yorkshire Post Community Environment Award; 2010 Rural Yorkshire Awards Green Business Category; 2010 British Renewable Energy Association Community Award; 2010 Partnership & Community Working Action for Market Towns Award'.

Short listed for: Action for Market Towns Project of the Year (2nd July); 2010 Yorkshire Forward 'Creating Better Futures' Award (1st July)

Ann also reported on a future project to be carried out by Craven Collage as a result of another LEADER funded project. This was the Wharfedale Beekeepers Association, and one of the members is currently working with a group of six young probationers learning how to erect dry stone walls. As a result of their enthusiasm, arising from his telling them about the need to increase the bee population, it is proposed that the group now install hives on a piece of land purchased by the College to rear bees.

RL had attended Washburn Heritage project. The event was held on 10th May 2010 and was attended by The Most Reverend and Right Honourable Dr John Sentamu, Archbishop of York as part of a two day visit to the Diocese of Bradford. The event was well attended by the public and clergymen. The Archbishop blessed a stone which will be laid in the lobby connecting the Centre and Church. The Centre is expected to open in early 2011.

Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting will be on Wednesday 11th August, venue to be arranged. There being no further business the meeting was closed.