

**Yorkshire Dales LEADER  
Notes of Management Group meeting  
14<sup>th</sup> April 2010, 10.00a.m. – 2.00p.m.  
North Stainley Village Hall**

**Present:**

**Management Group:**

Kevin Lancaster - Chair	Yorkshire Dales National Park
Prue Keigwin – Vice Chair	Community/rural services representative
Tom Wheelwright	Business-/tourism representative
Rita Lawson	North Yorkshire County Council
Cllr Margaret Atkinson	Nidderdale AONB
Mike Keeble	Heritage/culture representative
Cllr Les Ellington	Harrogate Borough Council
Ann Harding	Environmental representative
Colin Bailey	North Yorkshire Employment & Skills Partnership
Cllr Richard Foster	Craven District Council
Stephen Ramsden	Agricultural representative
Cllr Jimmy Wilson-Petch	Richmondshire District Council

**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
Graham Wilkinson	Community/rural services representative

Rita Lawson introduced Liz Scott from Yorkshire Forward to the Management Group. Liz was attending in order to observe how the LEADER Dales Management Group meeting was carried out. She would not comment and was there as an observer only.

**2. Minutes from previous meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2010**

The previous minutes had not recorded that the Chair had signed a provisional application for the Way of the Roses. This is now going to a full application and Rima would like to circulate it under written procedures before the next LEADER Dales meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> June. This was agreed. Kevin agreed that he had signed the provisional application and he asked that the previous minutes be amended and sent to him for signature as soon as possible.

**CM to amend minutes of 10<sup>th</sup> February 2010  
RB to proceed with Way of the Roses full  
application and NYCC to take this through  
written procedures**

**3. Matters arising from the minutes**

The LAG and AGM Open Event was discussed and it was agreed it had been worthwhile with some excellent showcasing of projects and speakers. Andy Tordoff from Yorkshire Forward had attended and was impressed by the venue that had received LEADER funding as well as the speakers and showcasing. Rima has uploaded photographs of the event onto the Dales LEADER website.

Rima wished the Group to be aware of the likely submission of multiple projects from previously funded organisations to the next meetings. It is acceptable for the Management Group to ask the accountable body how well the previous projects are being delivered ie how

they are spending and are they on track? However each application must be discussed on its own merits.

Kevin Lancaster reminded the Management Group that once rejection or approval of projects is decided the members must not give out any information as to the decisions made. In the case of rejected applications the letters will be sent out by the LEADER team within a couple of days but the successful applicants have to be added to a decision sheet which is sent to Yorkshire Forward for final approval. Once this is returned the offer letters are prepared. It was decided that the LEADER team email the group once the offer letters have been posted in order that they know when the applicants have been officially informed.

#### **4. Financial/Programme Update**

Rita Lawson told the Management Group of the 'frenetic' activity that has been taking place at County Hall with the team processing claims before the end of the financial year. Pam Preston has submitted the quarter four claim to Yorkshire Forward. Closedown of Year 1 and commencement of Year 2 is taking place so the team have been very busy. The final financial position will be available shortly and at the next meeting in June the Management Group will be advised of the full commitment for Year 2. Some of Year 2 funding is already approved for existing projects moving into their second year. LEADER Dales is in a healthy position with approximately £1,000,000 already committed to projects over a three to four year period.

Now the new LEADER year has commenced there will be an annual review of our contract. This will be a tight review and Rita Lawson, Rima Berry, Kevin Lancaster and YDMT will meet to discuss lessons learned and if any changes need to be made. The highlights and issues raised during the discussion will be circulated at the June meeting.

Rita Lawson informed the Group that Rima has regular meetings with the officer support group and it is intended to carry out a review of the LDS in September to ensure it is still fit for purpose and to prepare a timetable to carry out the exercise. The outcome of the review will be to recommend any changes to the LDS to the Management Group for approval, together with potential areas where Rima needs to target her activity. Rita further suggested that volunteers from the Management Group could be required to join a Task and Finish Group. Colin Bailey stated he would wish to be involved in the process.

The Management Group will need to be refreshed at the end of 2010 as they will have completed their two years of office. They have done a tremendous job to date, approving and enabling some very good projects to get off the ground.

Mike Keeble expressed concern that in 2013 there will be a cataclysmic turn in agriculture and even a change in government will not alter the fact that whoever is in power then will not give money to the agricultural industry. The information about this imminent problem needs addressing now in order that the members of the industry are informed about any assistance, training etc that is going to be available to them. Could the Farmers' Network be used and work with the NFU and CLA. The tenant farmers are the ones who will be hardest hit as they have no collateral. LEADER cannot fund businesses. Rima Berry has in fact made contact with Ian Bell with a view to discussing the ARC Addington Fund and the RABI Fund working together to have strong mechanisms in place for 2013.

## 5. Declarations of Interest

The following declarations of interest were recorded.

Project ref	Project name	Management Group member
LDR/D/2010/033	Art Geo Cache	None
LDR/D/2010/051	Grassington Hub	Cllr Richard Foster, Rita Lawson
LDR/D/2010/052	Skills in the Hills	Ann Harding
LDR/D/2010/053	Community Hub at RW Theatre	None
LDR/D/2010/054	Dales Countryside Trainee	Tom Wheelwright

## 6. Membership of Management Group

Colin Bailey is currently seconded to Richmondshire District Council but is attending the Management Group as the North Yorkshire Working and Skills Partnership representative.

Following the LAG nominations being circulated at the event on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2010, a form has been received from Rachel Allen, Middleham Key Centre who wishes to be considered as a Voluntary Sector representative for the Management Group. This would be a replacement for Sue Vasey who is no longer able to attend. The nomination was approved.

**RL to inform Rachel Allen**

Dawn Clarkson, who represented the Business Sector, has had to stand down as a member of the Management Group as she needs to concentrate on running her business as she has recently lost her business partner. Rita Lawson had received a request from Dawn to seek representation from her membership body, Mid Wensleydale Business Association. It was agreed that before a final decision is made on this request that Rima Berry should notify all of the business networks in the LEADER area to offer the chance to be a representative on the Group.

**RB to contact all Business Networks within the LEADER area**

## 7. Project applications seeking approval:

### (a) LDR/D/2010/033 Art Geo Cache

**Grant requested: £16,000**

**Total Project Costs: £40,000**

The project was **approved** and **awarded £16,000** with the condition that a LEADER legacy is left both in the 'caches' and on the website. This would be a form of information within the cache or at the place the cache is found about the artist and their work etc. There should be information on the Art Geocache website in the same way, also mentioning the LEADER Dales involvement.

### (b) LDR/D/2010/051 Grassington Hub

**Grant requested: £76,248**

**Total Project Costs: £223,874**

Cllr Richard Foster and Rita Lawson left the room prior to the discussion taking place.

This application is a resubmission after being rejected at a previous meeting. They were told to reassess the community focus and to link the project more to the Dales LEADER Local Development Strategy. They have had input from a funding advisor as well as considerable help from Rima Berry for the application. The application recently went before the Rural Access to Opportunities Management Group and was deferred with several questions to be

answered before being reconsidered at the next meeting. RAOP has different priorities to LEADER, the answers to the RAOP queries were not discussed at this meeting.

The project was unanimously **rejected** for following reasons:

**The project does not meet the aspirations of LEADER Dales in terms of:**

- **Displacement and potential duplication and weakening of other community resources**
- **Issues of sustainability of existing community services**
- **Insufficient evidence of a long term lease**
- **Innovation**

**(c) LDR/D/2010/052 Skills in the Hills**

**Grant requested: £19,966**

**Total Project Costs: £40,466**

Ann Harding left the room prior to the discussion taking place.

The project was unanimously **approved for one year's funding of £5,800** and to be run as a pilot with the following recommendations:

- It is seen to cover the LEADER Dales area
- It avoids duplication
- Needs to establish local linkages
- Evaluation of success at end of pilot will decide on following year's funding

**(d) LDR/D/2010/0053 The Community Hub at the Richard Whiteley Theatre**

**Grant requested: £54,000**

**Total Project Costs: £135,000**

The project was **deferred** for the following reasons:

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

**(e) LDR/D/2010/054 Dales Countryside Trainee Scheme**

**Grant requested: £95,115**

**Total Project costs: £298,952**

Tom Wheelwright left the room prior to the discussion taking place.

The project was **approved** and **awarded £95,115**

## **8. Any other business**

Rima Berry produced several papers for circulation around the table and gave an update on the Cooperation projects that will be coming forward in the very near future.

### **East Riding of Yorkshire – Way of the Roses**

These refer to the provisional application that is mentioned in Item 2 earlier in the minutes that was signed by Kevin Lancaster at the February Management Group Meeting. The application had lost the 9/10 funding but Rima wishes the Group to allow the money to be rolled over to 10/11. All partners are now involved and have signed up to the project. The Group agreed and Rima will circulate the application to go through written procedures as soon as possible for a decision.

**RB to circulate under written procedures**

### **English Commoners' Information and Communications Project**

This project will need provisional approval. The Federation of Yorkshire Commoners and Moorland Graziers who are the relative organisation in our area have not got the capacity and need a partner to help them.

### **Farmers' Network**

This started as a project with The Parc Regional de la Millevalches. There are partners in place now and they can go forward with a real collaboration project.

### **Inter-territorial/Transnational collaboration on upland meadows restoration and management**

The Task and Finish Group has looked at the Local Development Strategy for relevance to our area. They are looking to identify significant partners.

### **Network Cooperation Project**

The project is about facilitating networking groups to promote peer support and micro credit lending to SMEs. Rima does not believe it will be ready to come to the next meeting.

### **Next Meeting**

The date of the next meeting will be on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2010 at 10.00am, the venue is yet to be arranged.

Rita Lawson alerted the Management Group that there may have to be extra meetings arranged to cope with the volume of applications anticipated for the next few meetings. We will give notice for these as soon as the situation is clear, but in the meantime would the Group please reserve the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2010 in their diaries.

There being no further business the meeting was closed.