

**Yorkshire Dales LEADER
Notes of Management Group meeting
20th October 2010, 10.00am – 3.00pm
Council Chambers, Pateley Bridge**

Present:

Management Group:

Kevin Lancaster – Chair	Yorkshire Dales National Park
Prue Keigwin – Vice Chair	Community/rural services representative
Mike Keeble	Heritage/culture representative
Colin Bailey	North Yorkshire Work & Skills Partnership
Cllr John Fort	North Yorkshire County Council
Tom Wheelwright	Business/tourism representative
Alan Simpson	Richmondshire District Council (Substitute)
David Doorbar	Business/tourism representative
Ann Harding	Environmental representative
Graham Wilkinson	Community/rural services representative
Cllr Jimmy Wilson-Petch	Richmondshire District Council
Rachel Allen	Community/rural services representative
Paul Burgess	Nidderdale AONB (Substitute)

Support Officers:

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

1. Apologies for absence:

Cllr Les Ellington	Harrogate Borough Council
Cllr Margaret Atkinson	Nidderdale AONB
Stephen Ramsden	Agricultural representative
Cllr Richard Foster	Craven District Council

2. Minutes from previous meeting

As the meeting on 17th September was just to look at applications, the minutes for that day and the minutes of 11th August were both agreed and signed by the Chair.

3. Matters arising from the minutes

With reference to **LDR/D/2010/094 Sustainable Mobility for the Dales**, the action to reconfigure this project was not progressed with the applicant. It is doubtful that the application will come forward again.

Rima updated those present on the fact that there had been a nil response from the EU on Cooperation Project partners since August. The projects referred to, were: Sowing the Seeds - traditional hay meadows; Rural Transnational Exchange and Development - Chrysalis Arts; Yorkshire Dales Farmer Network; Limestone Landscapes - landscape and history; and Rural Women in Business (WorcNet).

Most of the EU countries started 18 months earlier than NY and we are also a 'partner without a budget'. It is surmised that the network disseminating this information is no longer fully operational. Rima could offer visits to the Settle Hydro.

Kevin Lancaster, Rima Berry and Margaret Atkinson attended the 'Way of the Roses' event at Burton Agnes where they were the guests of the Coast, Wetlands, Wolds and Waterways Leader Programme. This was an excellent day showing a worthy project and money well spent. The Way of the Roses route map has already sold out and is subject to reprint. Prue

Keigwin and Katy Penn had met Matt Baker at Coldstones Quarry and spent time discussing what they would like to see from Matt. They reported that the Coldstones project is wonderful and will be a lifetime legacy.

The Terms of Reference have been forwarded to Yorkshire Forward after endorsement by the Management Group. There has been no response to date so Rita is assuming that they are happy with them.

In the September minutes on page 6 the outstanding queries in respect of match funding are fine.

With regard to **LDR/D/2010/053 The Community Hub at the Richard Whiteley Theatre**, which was approved with a special condition '*That you continue to pursue the agreement between this project and Settle Victoria Hall and forward to North Yorkshire County Council (Accountable Body) as soon as it is practicable*', and had been advised not to spend against the LEADER award until this had been completed, the applicant has finally had a response from the trustees of Settle Victoria Hall. (A copy of this letter is on the Management Group file as well as the project file.) Rita Lawson read out the content of the letter and the Group were in agreement that the applicant had fulfilled the special condition and it was now discharged. The applicant could now go ahead with the project and the Group thanked them for their efforts. The Chair felt that the Group had been right to persevere with the condition. AH left the room

LDR/D/2010/16 Settle Hydro should have completed their project by January 2010 and the LEADER team were still having recurring problems with the submission of claims and supporting evidence.

Rita proposed therefore that in light of the situation the LEADER Dales funding for the Settle Hydro project should be withdrawn with effect from 29th September 2010, date of the first meeting with AH.

Members of the Group had concerns

- Would this cause the project to go under
- Rita assured them that the money to be withdrawn had not been spent on the specific items outlined in the LEADER application.
- Matter would not be shared with other organisations working with the project.
- No actual 'clawback' but drawing a line under the project at this point.
- Would this make AH's position on the group untenable? - It should not but if AH wishes to resign it is her decision as a member
- Concerns about audit were raised RL assured the Group that a variation to the original offer would be made and the team would ensure that all payments to date were totally reconciled.

The Chair said that officers had been as helpful and patient as possible and along with Management agreed with the decision.

AH returned to the meeting

LDR/D/2010/038 Bentham Community Youth Project had requested extra funding towards the discovery of wet rot in the building. The Group had agreed to award the extra £10,000 and the costs had now been received. The work will be undertaken immediately and finished by January 2011 and at no detriment to the Café project.

4. Financial/Programme update

RL circulated a spreadsheet informing the Group of the current financial situation and gave an explanation of columns and figures etc. Rima reminded them of the meaning of all of the

measures. The projects being considered today were on the sheet under specific measures and RL would update the spreadsheet as the decisions were taken.

There are 7 Parish Caretaker applications to be presented at the December meeting. LEADER is committed as below:

£24,852 over commitment throughout the life of the Programme

Measure 321 u/c £20,065

Measure 322 o/c £61,641

Measure 323 o/c £14,337

Measure 421 u/c £31,060

It is not a bad position to be over spent, YF will not allow NYCC to vire any monies between measures without submitting a full report which is an onerous task.

The Group would still need to meet after the money was spent though not as often, to be updated on the progress of the projects. There may be another opportunity in August 2011 if there is any slippage, to accept some applications. Applicants often over estimate what their project costs will be and will return amounts of funding at the end of their projects.

There were some careful decisions to be made today because of the Parish Caretaker's and other applications coming forward in December. Last year £220,964.00 was lost because projects did not spend the money during the allocated time.

It has been difficult tracking the spend and outcomes as RL had asked for a Management Information System to be devised for the Team but it was considered not to be a priority and was refused. The Team will continue using spreadsheets.

Arrangements should be made early next year for the Management Group to visit some of the completed projects. There will be an opportunity to see the Richard Whiteley Theatre as the Decision Panel and AGM on the 15th December will be held at the venue.

Declarations of interest

Project ref	Project name	Management Group member
LDR/D/2010/053	The Community Hub at the Richard Whiteley Theatre	Ann Harding
LDR/D/2010/016	Settle Hydro	Ann Harding
LDR/D/2010/077	Lower Wensleydale Aiming High	Colin Bailey Rachael Allen Jimmy Wilson-Petch
LDR/D/2010/091	Dales Walking to Health Initiative	Colin Bailey, Rachel Allen Jimmy Wislon-Petch
LDR/D/2010/088	Settle Victoria Hall Business Plan Plus	Ann Harding
LDR/D/2010/092	Firm Friends	Paul Burgess Tom Wheelwright

5. Deferred applications:

LDR/D/2010/077 Lower Wensleydale Aiming High

Grant requested: £86,105

Total Project Costs: £107,518

CB, RA & JWP left the meeting

The written procedures on this project raised some queries from the Group and it was decided to re-present it at the Decision Panel. This application will be considered again, forgetting any comments from the previous meeting. (See declarations of interest)

The project was **approved** and awarded £86,105.00 subject to special conditions:

- that they involve schools and youngsters within Leyburn and Middleham
- 1 year from approval – presentation to Management Board and Q&A session

CB, RA and JWP returned to the meeting.

6. Project applications seeking approval:

Rima Berry wanted the Group to be aware that 3 projects, termed 'modest' in the Appraisal have increased costs between 'signing off' and the applicant submitting the project. She would like the term modest to be disregarded within the discussions and my comments will be amended within the appraisal.

a) LDR/D/2010/075 Dales Toy Library

Grant requested: £50,398

Total Project Costs: £62,998

The project was **approved** and awarded £50,398.00 subject to a special condition that they do a short presentation and Q&A session to the Management Group one year on.

b) LDR/D/2010/083 The Rhubarb Route

Grant requested: £12,400

Total Project Costs: £18,100

The project was **rejected** as current demand for funding far out-weighted budgets available. Project was therefore deemed low priority for the LEADER programme.

c) LDR/D/2010/084 The Swaledale Project 7000 years

Grant requested: £38,140

Total Project costs: £49,760

The project was **approved** and awarded £38,140.00.

d) LDR/D/2010/085 Getting SCENE Back on Track

Grant requested: £12,240

Total Project costs: £15,240

The project was **rejected** as the current demand for funding far out-weighted the budget available, and it was deemed low priority for the LEADER programme

e) LDR/D/2010/086 Limestone Landscapes

Grant requested: £131,000

Total project costs: £165,955

The project was **rejected** as the Management Group considered the objectives in relation to the LEADER programme were unclear. The current demand for funding far outweighed the budgets available, the project was therefore deemed low priority for the LEADER programme and would not fit outcomes of the LEADER programme.

f) LDR/D/2010/088 Victoria Hall Business Plan Plus

Grant requested: £14,000

Total project costs: £17,500

A H left the room.

The project was **rejected** as the current demand for funding far out-weighed budgets available therefore deemed low priority for the LEADER programme.

A H returned.

g) LDR/D/2010/089 The Green Energy Challenge

Grant requested: £18,913.00

Total project costs: £23,641.00

The project was **approved** and awarded £18,913.00.

h) LDR/D/2010/091 Dales Walking for Health Initiative

Grant requested: £10,000.00

Total project costs: £20,000.00

CB, JWP and RA left the meeting.

The **project** was approved,

- subject to match funding (can not start before year end 2010)
- subject to confirmation that the area covered for this project is separate and definitely new to the LEADER area.

CB and RA returned to the meeting, JWP did not because of a previous engagement.

i) LDR/D/2010/092 Firm Friends

Grant requested: £37,040

Total project costs: £46,300

PB and TW left the meeting. AH left the meeting because of a previous engagement.

Key comments were:

- Interesting project with novel approach

The project was **approved**.

TW returned to the meeting, PB did not because of a previous engagement.

12. Any other business

It was suggested that it would be useful to have a meeting in Settle Town Hall and visit the Hydro project. This had not been possible for the October meeting as originally proposed. Swaledale Mountain Rescue were also hoping that the Group could see what they had achieved.

Rima Berry asked that approval be given for a Geo-diversity Cooperation project with North Devon. This may or may not happen, with the initial meeting taking place on Friday 21st October at Hebden Bridge. The envisaged spend would be £2,300. **Approved**

Rima gave an update on the commissioned Local Food project. The steering group has been formed from 2 LAG persons, 3 members of 'One Planet Living'. 1 from the LAG support team, 1 previous regional advisor for the Making Local Food Work initiative and regional advisor for 'Pub is the Hub', the first meeting is pending.

The 'Millevache project has been halted by mutual agreement

The Rural Aqua Hidroambiente 21 is still around but static at the moment.

CWWW – LEADER Dales will reciprocate with a meeting on 8th June 2011 at Fountains Abbey which will include the biannual LAG event. We need to show a good turnout.

Sowing the Seeds – Rima is meeting with the Learning Coordinator – contacts have been made with the Czech Republic. There could be opportunities to push forward with the Forest of Bowland, Northern Pennines.

Tickets were offered to the Gayle Mill Xmas Fayre.

Next Meeting

To be held at the Richard Whiteley Theatre at Giggleswick School on Wednesday 15th December 2010. This will become the AGM after the Decision Panel is held in the morning including the second phase of Parish Caretaker applications. There will be invited speakers such as Don Gamble from Sowing the Seeds, Matt Baker from Way of the Roses and/or information on the launch of proposed South Devon Cooperation project.