

Agenda Items

1. Present:

Avril McLean	WRVS (Chair)
Charlie Woodward	Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park
Donald Cochrane	National Farmers Union
Jimmy Hyslop	Scottish Natural Heritage
Tommy McGrory	Forestry Commission Scotland
Ruth Cooper	Renfrewshire Council
Lynn Hollands	Renfrewshire Council
Keren Ferguson	Renfrewshire Council (Leader Coordinator)
Roy Morrison	Renfrewshire Council
Hua Cui	Renfrewshire Youth Voice (Observing)

2. Apologies:

Robert Carruth	Access Forum
Aileen Monk	SRANI
Toby Wilson	RSPB

3. Minutes of previous meeting: Approved with no amendments.

4. Matters Arising

- The chair re-emphasised the importance of improving the spend position of the Renfrewshire Programme and the need to attract and support applications
- There was discussion about the quality of applications received and possible actions to support applicants with additional advice and guidance.

ACTIONS:

- i. Leader Team to continue marketing and engaging with Renfrewshire Groups to publicise funds
 - ii. LAG scoring sheet to be put on web site to better inform applicants of the assessment process
 - iii. Leader team to offer additional support to applicants where required
 - iv. Re-emphasise the eligibility criteria for applications including procurement, targets, and justification to ensure these are properly and practically addressed by applicants.
 - v. LAG to welcome applications from urban areas where impact is also in rural area.
- LAG Membership – It was agreed that Howwood Community Council, West Region Scouts and Renfrewshire Youth Voice should be contacted and an invitation extended to them to join the LAG. The Leader Team to action.

5. New Applications for Consideration

- Presentations were received from the following applicants prior to final consideration of the applications by the LAG:-
 - i. Strathclyde Fire and Rescue: Junior Firereach Programme
 - ii. Renfrewshire Environmental Trust: Renfrewshire Environmental Network
 - iii. Carts Greenspace: Brownside Farm Regeneration Project
 - iv. Scottish Wildlife Trust: Enhancing Access and Biodiversity at Glen Moss.

6. Decisions on Applications

- Strathclyde Fire and Rescue: Junior Firereach Programme.

Approved Subject To:-

- i. SFR to submit revised financial profile with reduced grant intervention rate
 - ii. An assessment of the impact of the project to be submitted to the LAG on completion
 - iii. Further justification for the financial support of core staff within SFR should be provided
 - iv. SFR to reprofile application to include ineligible costs to better reflect the LEADER grant leverage achieved.
 - v. Comprehensive progress reports to be provided to monitor activities
 - vi. The applicant to properly advertise LEADER support on all equipment
- Renfrewshire Environmental Trust: Renfrewshire Environmental Network.
 - i. Avril expressed an interest in this application but remained to Chair with no vote

Approved

- Carts Greenspace: Brownside Farm Regeneration Project.

Application subsequently withdrawn

- SWT: Enhancing Access and Biodiversity at Glen Moss.

Approved Subject To:-

- i. Confirmation and evidence of procurement of works/services/supplies to have been at least 3 quotes
- ii. Applicant providing a more detailed breakdown of costs

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- iii. Confirmation of match funding
- iv. Further information being provided on the use of volunteers e.g. source, roles, skills etc. and the use of local resources.

7. Rural Priority and Leader: Eligibility and Suitability of Projects

- After lengthy discussion regarding the suitability of certain project proposals for Leader funding or for support under the Rural Priority the following was decided:-
 - i. While some activities may fit within both funding streams the LAG should consider 'how' projects are to be delivered rather than simply the 'what'. Projects with strong community demand, good evidence of need, an innovative delivery mechanism (e.g. using local skills, volunteers, resources) should be accepted within Leader even where the projects could also fit within RP.
 - ii. Consideration should be given to 'capping' the level of grant for projects in this category, particularly where they are providing new/refurbished pathways in areas of very low population density.
 - iii. That the Leader Team would report back on the practicalities of doing so and with examples of best practice from other LAGs

8. Applications Update for Tier 1 Applications (<£3,000 in grant)

- The LAG accepted the Management Group recommendations to approve the following applications:-
 - i. REN 018 - Researching Rural Renfrewshire @ £1,500 (50%)
 - ii. REN 019 – Rural Renfrewshire and Me @ £2,300 (50%)
- It was agreed to retain the scoring and reporting format for Tier 1 applications but to ensure that sufficient detail was provided regarding need/demand

9. Application Decision-making Process & Procedure

- The report was approved with the following comments:-
 - i. That there is still a resource issue to consider regarding the membership of the PAG and the LAG and the time commitment required to consider applications properly
 - ii. The involvement of some LAG members is intermittent and needs to be addressed
 - iii. Increasing the number of members of the PAG should be considered

10. Leader Boundary – Inclusion of Bishopton within Renfrewshire Leader

- The paper recommending the inclusion of Bishopton within the Renfrewshire Leader boundary was unanimously approved with the following actions being noted:-
 - i. The Leader Team to formally contact Bishopton Community Council and local Councillors and invite them to join the Renfrewshire Leader Programme
 - ii. To progress the amendment of the Renfrewshire Leader map if the invitation was accepted.
 - iii. The Leader Team to contact the Scottish Government for guidance on the process to be followed in amending the Local development Strategy.
- There was further discussion on the inclusion of Inverclyde into the Renfrewshire LAG with the following points being raised:-
 - i. The Inverclyde area is predominantly urban
 - ii. There is no mechanism within Leader for supporting projects from within areas of greater than 10,000 population
 - iii. The development of the Renfrewshire Leader Programme would not benefit from widening its' area of responsibility at this time
 - iv. The Management Group was asked to prepare a formal response to the Scottish Government declining the proposal to include Inverclyde within the Renfrewshire Leader boundary.

11. Leader Publicity and Events

- The actions by the Leader Team to enhance the measures taken to publicise the Leader Programme were supported by the LAG
- The following additional actions will also be undertaken:
 - i. Plaques to be provided to successful applicants for display in project premises
 - ii. Reprint of publicity material to incorporate the increased budget
 - iii. The web site to include more information on scoring and eligibility criteria
 - iv. That these actions should be reported to the next meeting of the LAG
 - v. A report to be prepared for the next meeting on the recent Funders Fair at which Renfrewshire Leader had a stand

12. Additional Remit for Leader(Rural Broadband and Increased Budget)

- The LAG noted the content of the report regarding Rural Broadband funding commenting on the difficulties of pulling good applications together. Further consideration to be given to this.

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- The LAG delegated authority to the Management Group to amend the Local Development Strategy with regard to the increased budget and the 2 new priorities to be included.

13. Financial Statement

- An overview of the budget revision was presented. The LAG asked that this be incorporated into the next financial report to be tabled at the next meeting.

14. AOCB

- Feedback from the recent Aberdeen Conference was given. The following was emphasised:
 - i. The need to meet financial projections and draw down Leader grant as planned
 - ii. The increasing need for LAGs to receive clear, concise information from the Scottish Government on eligibility of expenditure and other technical guidance
- LAG members asked that attendees to conferences etc give full feedback to the LAG so that all members are kept up-to-date.
- It was agreed that LAG meetings move to Wednesdays, duration 4 hours approx.
- It was agreed that membership of the PAG will be:-
 - i. Avril, Charlie, Donald, Jimmy, Tommy, Toby with Robert to be invited to join
 - ii. That the circulation of information/applications would be by e-mail with 1 hard copy for Robert if he should agree to join the PAG.

15. Date of next meeting

- The next meeting of the LAG will take place on Wednesday 8th December at 4pm. Venue to be confirmed.