

**MINUTE OF MEETING OF
RURAL ABERDEENSHIRE LEADER LOCAL ACTION GROUP
FRIDAY, 27 JUNE 2008
LOCHTER ACTIVITY CENTRE, OLDMELDRUM**

Present

Eleanor Anderson	Aberdeenshire Rural Partnership Federation
Dan Cadle	Forestry Commission Scotland
Ewen Cameron	Scottish Natural Heritage
Caroline Clark	National Health Service
Liz Gordon	Aberdeenshire Council
Moira Gordon	Scottish Women's Rural Institute
Morna Harper	Aberdeenshire Council
Stewart Johnston	Scottish Executive
James Knowles	Aberdeenshire Council
Bob Leonard	Aberdeenshire Council
Malcolm Nicol	Scottish Rural Property and Business Association
George Noble	Scottish Enterprise
Maureen Stephen	Aberdeenshire Councils for Voluntary Service
Vicky Thomson	Aberdeenshire Council
Andy Willox	Federation of Small Businesses

Apologies

David Bale, Robin Blyth, Martin Brebner, Sabine Dey, Jennifer Hall, Reid Hutchison, Dennis McFarlane, Keith Newton, Lorna Paterson, John Risby, Susan Smith, Erin Wood.

1. WELCOME

- 1.1 James Knowles welcomed those present and introduced Caroline Clark, NHS Public Health Co-ordinator, to the meeting.
- 1.2 The LEADER Website was praised by LAG Partners.

2. MINUTE OF MEETING OF 29 MAY 2008

- 2.1 It was confirmed minutes will be uploaded on the website once approved by the LAG. The minutes of the meeting of Thursday, 29 May will be circulated electronically for comments by Wednesday, 2 July.
- 2.2 Vicky Thomson confirmed that a card had been sent to Mike Pow, LEADER Policy Team, on behalf of the LAG.

3. ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

- 3.1 The LEADER Administrator, Anne MacLennan, was introduced and welcomed to the group.
- 3.2 The LEADER office location will be Gordon House, Inverurie.

4. LAG MEMBERSHIP

- 4.1 James Knowles welcomed the involvement of the NHS in the LEADER Programme. The future role of NHS in relation to the PAC would be considered in due course.

5. PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITY

- 5.1 Cairngorms LEADER are holding a series of promotional events in the month of July. Vicky has been invited, as Aberdeenshire LAG representative, to attend in Strathdon on Tuesday, 15 July and in Ballater on Thursday, 17 July. An open invitation was extended to LAG Partners who may be available to attend these events. Eleanor Anderson will be attending the Strathdon event and Robin Blyth will attend Ballater.
- 5.2 Promotional activity in Rural Aberdeenshire has still to be developed. It is also planned to hold a seminar for Aberdeenshire Officers. The LAG will be informed of dates of events once they have been confirmed.
- 5.3 LEADER has been invited to share the Scottish Government stand at Turriff Show. Stewart Johnston, Principal Agricultural Officer, was thanked for offering this facility to the LAG.
- 5.4 A stock of leaflets is available for Partners to distribute to interested parties at meetings or events.
- 5.5 Partners were asked to spread the word regarding the website. Ewen Cameron recommended the inclusion of a page on the website giving information for applicants in relation to other sources of possible match funding.

Ewen informed the meeting that Scottish Natural Heritage have £50k per annum over a three year period which may be available for additional/match funding. Ewen will e-mail a link to the relevant grants page on the SNH website.

CVS are available to give advice on funding.

Any proposals which seek Scottish Enterprise match funding should be referred to James Knowles via Vicky and he will forward on requests. Scottish Enterprise will consider each request on its merits.

6. DATES FOR PAC AND LAG MEETINGS

As previously agreed, there will be two assessment rounds for applications to LEADER and four assessment rounds for small projects (funding up to £5,000) this year. A timetable of application deadlines and dates for PAC and LAG meetings for 2008 was issued. This timetable is also available on the website. PAC representatives are asked to send a substitute if they are unable to attend the meetings.

7. CURRENT PROJECT ENQUIRIES

A summary sheet giving examples of current enquiries was circulated. Enquiries to date cover a very varied range of projects. Discussion took place on the eligibility of couple of the sample enquiries. James Knowles highlighted that fact that the LAG is currently on a very steep learning curve, but also it was very encouraging to see a good geographic spread and range of enquiries.

8. AOCB

The LAG is looking forward to the application deadline of 29 July to see what projects are on the table. The project has come a long way since Autumn 2007 and we are all working hard to make it work. James Knowles stressed the need for Partners to encourage groups/individuals to make an application.

9. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 2 September 2008.