



**Greater Renfrewshire and Inverclyde LAG  
Minutes of Meeting: 18th<sup>th</sup> May 2017 (Renfrewshire House)**

**1. Present:**

- i. **Quorum:** the meeting was quorate
- ii. **Non-public/public ratio:** 6 non-public and 4 public

**Non-Public:**

Fraser Lang	Private Business – IT Consultant (LAG Chair)
Charles Brindley	Uplawmoor Community Council
Lynn Rew	East Renfrewshire Independent Resident
Bill Clements	CVS Inverclyde, Deputy Manager
Stuart Miller	Engage Renfrewshire
Susan Robinson	Inverclyde Independent Resident

**Public:**

Jimmy Hyslop	Scottish Natural Heritage
Will Nisbet	Inverclyde Council
Annique Armstrong	Visit Scotland
Laura Moir	East Renfrewshire Council

**Others Present:**

Keren Ferguson	LEADER Programme Coordinator
Lewis Rennie	LEADER Development
Tracey Parker	LEADER Finance
Susan Boath	Renfrewshire Council

**Table Plan:**

Stuart Miller	Susan Robinson	Charles Brindley	Lynn Rew	Fraser Lang (Chair)	Lewis Rennie
Will Nisbet					Keren Ferguson
Susan Boath	Tracey Parker	Laura Moir	Bill Clements	Jimmy Hyslop	Annique Armstrong

**iii. Apologies**

**Non-public:**

David Blair	Kilbarchan Community Council
Bill McCallum	West Region Scouts

**Public:**

Ruth Cooper	Renfrewshire Council (Manager, Econ Dev)
David Low	Senior Committee Services Officer, Renfrewshire Council

## **2. Brief Overview of the Meeting:**

The Chair gave a brief overview of the format for the evening, including the three presentations by the three applicants.

## **3. Financial Update**

Tracey Parker circulated an update paper on the LEADER budget to date.

## **4. Quorate: Yes/No**

The meeting was quorate.

## **5. Minutes of Previous Meeting:**

Minutes from the previous LAG meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2017 were agreed and signed by the Chair and co-signed by a second LAG member, Lynn Rew.

## **6. Matters Arising**

Renfrewshire Council, in its role as the Accountable Body for Greater Renfrewshire and Inverclyde LEADER, proposed contract extensions of June 2019 and March 2020 for the LEADER project development assistant and LEADER finance officer respectively. Susan Boath attended the Accountable Bodies meeting in late April on behalf of Renfrewshire Council, and advised that LEADER teams across Scotland are concerned that experienced staff may be lost due to uncertainties regarding contracts. Renfrewshire Council is keen to avoid this scenario.

Keren also informed the LAG of the following:

Due to progression and additional responsibilities in her role, Keren's post was referred to the Council's job evaluation team for review by Economic Development Manager Ruth Cooper. On confirmation from job evaluation, we will contact the LAG with final details.

LAG members agreed with the need for contract extensions and notionally approved Keren's re-grade assuming this can be met within existing technical support budgets.

## **7. Conflicts of Interest:**

Will Nisbet raised the issue that in his current role he was a funder of other activity at Gourock Golf Club. It was agreed that this was not considered to be a conflict of interest.

Will Nisbet has had dealings with Finlaystone Estate, which were deemed to be a conflict of interest.

Fraser Lang also declared a conflict of interest in relation to Finlaystone Estate given that he is a former employee.

Annique Armstrong declared a conflict of interest in relation to Ardgowan Distillery.

No other conflicts of interest were raised. Notwithstanding, the two conflicts of interest for Finlaystone and the one conflict of interest for Ardgowan, the meeting remained quorate.

## **8. Consideration of Applications:**

The format for the consideration of applications was twofold: first, a presentation by the applicant followed by a question and answer session. The second part was the deliberation stage. The LAG discussed and debated each project before coming to a decision.

### **(a) Gourock Golf Club Community Practice Facility - Equipment**

A presentation was made by Allan Warwick of Gourock Golf Club (also present were Robbie Cuthbert and Ian Macnaughton). The application had asked for LEADER to fund 50% of eligible project costs, with the Club match funding the other 50%. The LAG agreed to fund the project on a reduced intervention rate of 40%, stipulating the condition that the Club match funds the remaining 60%.

#### **Conditions:**

- Quarterly cash flow projections (to capture seasonal aspects) for the Club as a whole are required for 2 years (period start date of May 1<sup>st</sup> 2017 is suggested) inclusive of match funding and LEADER funding.
- Include the Indoor Practice Facility operational cash income. However, show the sales for this on a separate line.
- Provide evidence of match funding up to 60% of project value.
- Match fund 60% of project. The LAG did not want to fund 50% of eligible costs; instead the LAG agreed to fund 40% of eligible project costs.

#### **LAG Decision: Conditional Approval**

### **(b) Finlaystone Tourism Project**

The LAG listened to Arthur Macmillan's presentation on his application for a tourism project at his Finlaystone Estate. However, due to concerns pertaining to the nature of the business, the LAG decided to reject the project. The reasons for the LAG's decision to reject this project were:

- The LAG thought that the business plan was insufficient.
- The LAG felt that profit making would be minimal.
- The application did not demonstrate that the return on investment from the proposed projects would sustain or grow the business sufficiently.
- There was a lack of clarity regarding the relationships between businesses ran on the estate.

#### **LAG Decision: Rejected**

**(c) Ardgowan Distillery Visitor Centre: Concept Design**

Jessica Skelton from the Ardgowan Distillery Company presented to the LAG. The LAG was impressed at the information supplied and gave credit to the applicant for their efforts. However, the LAG sought assurance that nobody in the surrounding area would be forced out of their home as a result of the distillery development. Jessica Skelton assured the LAG that nobody would be forced out of their home. The LAG approved the project. The LAG requested no specific conditions or additional information.

**LAG Decision: Approved, standard conditions**

**9. East Renfrewshire Pipeline Projects**

It was highlighted that no East Renfrewshire applications have been received by the LEADER team, although there are a few being discussed and one or two expressions of interest submitted. Laura Moir suggested holding/attending events in the area over the coming months to spread the word.

**10. AOCB**

The LAG approved the new design for Gourock Golf Club's LEADER phase 1 project. The change request for this will be approved by the LEADER team via LARCs.

**11. Date of Next Meeting**

8<sup>th</sup> August 2017



Two handwritten signatures in black ink. The top signature appears to be 'Lynn Row' and the bottom signature is more stylized and difficult to decipher, possibly 'Lynn Row' or another name.