



**Greater Renfrewshire and Inverclyde LAG  
Minutes of Meeting: 8th<sup>th</sup> August 2017 (Renfrewshire House)**

**1. Present:**

- i. **Quorum:** the meeting was quorate
- ii. **Non-public/public ratio:** 5 non-public and 2 public

**Non-Public:**

Fraser Lang	Private Business – IT Consultant (LAG Chair)
Bill McCallum	West Region Scouts
Charles Brindley	Uplawmoor Community Council
Lynn Rew	East Renfrewshire Independent Resident
David Blair	Kilbarchan Community Council

**Public:**

Laura Moir	East Renfrewshire Council
Gary Kenyon	Senior Econ Dev Officer (Business Team) Renfrewshire Council

**Others Present:**

Keren Ferguson	LEADER Programme Coordinator
Lewis Rennie	LEADER Development
Tracey Parker	LEADER Finance

Table Plan:

David Blair	Bill McCallum	Gary Kenyon	Tracey Parker	Lewis Rennie
Fraser Lang (Chair)				Keren Ferguson
	Charles Brindley	Lynn Rew	Laura Moir	

**iii. Apologies**

**Non-public:**

Bill Clements	CVS Inverclyde, Deputy Manager
Susan Robinson	Inverclyde Independent Resident
Stuart Miller	Engage Renfrewshire

**Public:**

Will Nisbet	Inverclyde Council
Susan Boath	Renfrewshire Council
Jimmy Hyslop	Scottish Natural Heritage
Annique Armstrong	Visit Scotland



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

FL gave a brief overview of the meeting explaining no project applications would be presenting but notified the LAG of two developments:

**(i)** New LAG member representative for Renfrewshire Council is Gary Kenyon, who was attending for the first time at this meeting

**(ii)** FL has changed his representation status from Head Ranger at Finlaystone Estate to private business (IT consultant).

## **3. Quorate: Yes**

The meeting was quorate: 5 non-public to 2 public.

## **4. Financial Update:**

TP circulated an update paper on the LEADER budget to date. There is £1,521,635.03 available to commit to projects. Approvals to date include two projects based in Renfrewshire, three projects based in Inverclyde and no projects based in East Renfrewshire, although there are a few in the pipeline for this area.

Contract extensions within the LEADER team have been approved for the development assistant and finance officer until June 2019 and March 2020 respectively. Keren's role as LEADER coordinator has been reviewed and regrading has been confirmed by the council's job evaluation team.

These changes will be reflected in the budget and submitted with the up and coming LDS/BP change request to Scottish Government.

## **5. Projects Update:**

### **(i) Live Projects**

Park Farm is awaiting its building warrant before it can start its project.

Gourock Golf Club phase 1 is progressing well; photos showing the build progress were circulated to LAG members.

Gourock phase 2 has made two payments towards the equipment, which will be installed when phase 1 is complete

Tag n Track and Ardgowan are both progressing well.

### **(ii) Projects in Development**

Lapwing Lodge in East Renfrewshire is looking at applying to LEADER by the end of this year for the build of a multi-use activity centre.

KLAS Care in Renfrewshire is looking to apply to LEADER for the renovation of premises that will allow them to grow their business.

Dodside Dogruns has expressed an interest looking to upgrade their facility by installing all user paths to increase the usability for people with mobility issues.

St. Vincent's Hospice has expressed an interest and is looking to install a tarmac public footpath from the existing bus stop on the main road direct to the hospice.

Pawz & Co Doggy Daycare has expressed an interest for funding to fence an area that would allow them to increase their business capacity.



Both Whitelee wind farm play park and Balgray wake park are interested, however negotiations are ongoing with Scottish Water and Scottish Power.

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

Minutes from the previous LAG meeting on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2017 were agreed and signed by the LAG Chair and co-signed by a second LAG member, Lynn Rew.

#### **7. Matters Arising:**

*A LM advised that a local community group asked why other LAGs offer up to 90% intervention rate and why the GRI intervention rate is still capped at 50%, at the time LM explained the reasons and Keren reiterated the LAG's approach, but LM said she would raise the issue with the LAG. KF explained that such a high intervention rate can make it difficult for projects to get off the ground as LEADER pays in arrears leading to cash flow issues. KF also explained that many LAGs offered a higher intervention rate in the run up to the Autumn Statement last year in an attempt to commit as much funding as possible as this was a period of uncertainty. It was agreed that the 50% should still stand.*

*KF highlighted 'Social Investment Scotland' as an alternative source of match funding if applicants have been unsuccessful and/or exhausted other means.*

#### **8. LDS Performance review:**

*A change request is due to be submitted in order to update the business plan (BP) to reference the use of LARCs. KF thought this would be an opportunity for the LAG to make comment on the performance of the LDS if they wished, in terms of whether it is meeting the needs of the rural community.*

*KF would like to submit the LDS/BP change request via LARCs by the end of September. KF asked that any LAG members who wish to comment do so by the 18<sup>th</sup> August. If it is evident that a number of LAG members are saying the same thing a proposal will be put to the LAG to make a change if necessary and/or the comments will be reflected in the performance report due to Scottish Government by end of October.*

#### **9. Promotional Events/Ideas:**

The LAG discussed how to promote LEADER and attract applications, in particular farm diversification and cooperation projects.

##### **(i) Farm Diversification**

The LAG discussed holding promotional events, but concluded that they are not usually successful. Instead, the LAG agreed to directly target regular gatherings of farmers, for example NFU Scotland meetings and local agricultural shows.

*LR, CB and LM are trying to promote LEADER in their own area (East Renfrewshire). LM suggested contacting the local landowners as well as farmers as they may have ideas for rural diversification.*

##### **(ii) Cooperation**

KF explained that a potential cooperation project could be in the pipeline from the Scottish Pilgrim Routes Forum (SPRF). This would involve tendering for a consultant to develop a strategy and action plan that guides the development of the pilgrim routes under the branding of SPRF. KF will contact the Scottish Rural Network to see what assistance can be given in finding partners.

If this initial cooperation project is successful, it could potentially lead to follow-up cooperation projects.

KF raised that although the guidance reads as if these projects can be 100% funded by LEADER, i.e. each LAG involved funding part of the full amount. This will need to be clarified.



DB raised several issues regarding farm diversification and cooperation. For instance, GRI is mandated to spend 10% on cooperation, farm diversification and rural enterprise would the money be clawed back from the GRI if it were not spend/committed. He asked if we could move the money to other sections instead and also suggested utilising media routes to promote farm diversification and alternative farming, for example STV Glasgow, 'Countryfile' on BBC One, and BBC Radio. KF suggested it might be worth raising this at the up and coming coordinators meeting.

The following LAG members will attend the cooperation event on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October at Gleddoch House: Charles Brindley, Lynn Rew, Laura Moir, Fraser Lang (LAG Chair) and Bill Clements. Other LAG members who wish to attend should notify the LEADER team ASAP.

**10. AOCB:**

There was no other competent business.

**11. Date of Next Meeting:**

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> November (with a project deadline date of 18<sup>th</sup> September)



