



**Greater Renfrewshire and Inverclyde LAG**  
**Minutes of Meeting: Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2018 (Renfrewshire House)**

**1. Present:**

**Non-Public:**

Fraser Lang	Private Business – IT Consultant (LAG Chair)
Bill McCallum	West Region Scouts
Charles Brindley	Uplawmoor Community Council
David Blair	Renfrewshire Independent Resident (Kilbarchan)
Stuart Miller	Engage Renfrewshire
Lisa Roberts	National Farmers Union
Lynn Rew	East Renfrewshire Independent Resident

**Public:**

Gary Kenyon	Renfrewshire Council
Laura Moir	East Renfrewshire Council
Will Nisbet	Inverclyde Council

**Others Present:**

Keren Ferguson	LEADER Programme Coordinator
Lewis Rennie	LEADER Project Development
Gordon Smith	Visit Scotland
Michael Moran	Assistant Manager, Economic Development

**Table Plan:**

Fraser Lang (Chair)	Lynn Rew	Laura Moir	Gordon Smith	Charles Brindley	David Blair	Michael Moran
Keren Ferguson	Lewis Rennie	Stuart Miller	Bill McCallum	Will Nisbet	Gary Kenyon	Lisa Roberts

- i. **Quorum:** the meeting was quorate
- ii. **Non-public/public ratio:** 7 non-public and 3 public

**2. Apologies**

Tracey Parker	LEADER Finance
Daniel McCusker	Renfrewshire Independent Resident (Lochwinnoch)

### 3. Financial Update:

There is £1,405,962 available to commit to projects. Approvals to date include three projects based in Renfrewshire, three projects based in Inverclyde and no projects based in East Renfrewshire. There are potentially fourteen projects in the pipeline with a combined value of approximately £1,003,207.00. The LAG will decide on four of these applications tonight.

### 4. Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Minutes from the previous LAG meeting on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February were agreed and signed by the LAG Chair and co-signed by a second LAG member, David Blair.

### 5. Matters Arising:

Scottish Natural Heritage has been reviewing its involvement with the LEADER Action Groups and other commitments alongside the available staff resource and it has decided to stand down from the LAG. This has resulted in Jimmy Hyslop stepping down from the LAG.

Annique Armstrong has accepted a two year secondment to Glasgow Life so will no longer be able to sit on the LAG. Gordon Smith has taken on Annique's role at Visit Scotland and the LAG has voted YES to him joining the LAG as a member.

There were two conflicts of interest in the project applications received, these were:

- Fraser Lang had an interest in the Wider Connexions application.
- Laura Moir had an interest in the Waterfoot application.

### 6. Project Presentations

#### Wider Connexions

Alex Nicol presented Moving on Inverclyde's Wider Connexions project. John McMaster, volunteer and previous user of the service also said a few words on the importance of this service within Inverclyde, how it has helped him and how difficult it would be to engage with the service if you lived in the rural area.

There was a little concern from the LAG that the organisation had started to eat into their reserves, and this was the case but only until they received their Big Lottery funding for core activities, which they have.

The LAG was also interested in the ratio of men to women using the service, this was answered as approximately a 60:40 split. It was asked if the organisation track their clients after the 6 months and the answer to this was yes. The organisation keeps in regular contact with service users during and after their initial 6 months on the programme.

The LAG was in agreement that this was a worthwhile project to support as there are a number of barriers to potential service users if they live in the rural area. Transportation and cost were two main issues that proved difficult to get round, supporting an outreach service helped overcome this.

**LAG Decision: Approved**

## **C.A.S.H**

Paul Findlay presented Financial Fitness' C.A.S.H project. The organisation would like to provide an outreach service to the rural areas which provides independent financial advice on benefit entitlement to those struggling with money matters. Transportation issues and cost of getting into the main towns in Inverclyde posed barriers to residents of the rural villages accessing the current service. Paul had calculated for every £1 LEADER invests in this project £40.27 will be generated based on a generated income of £1.2m.

The LAG asked if it was possible that the organisation would struggle with resources and had concerns that the project may stop after the LEADER funding came to an end. Paul admitted that this was a possibility but if the project was successful they hoped they could build in the outreach service to their core functionality within Inverclyde. He explained the organisation is a free service and is entirely reliant on grant funding. It was asked if there was means testing involved to prioritise those who accessed the service, the LAG were informed that the service was accessible to anyone with an Inverclyde postcode.

The LAG were happy that this was an important service for the rural community and accepted that the barriers preventing rural residents from accessing it could be overcome by supporting this project.

**LAG Decision: Approved**

## **Waterfoot Play Park**

Mark Brand presented on East Renfrewshire's application for a children's playpark in the village of Waterfoot. Mark explained that the village is quite secluded and cut-off from other areas by large areas of greenspace and a dual carriageway running between Waterfoot and the nearest village of Eaglesham.

Presently there is no community building or space in Waterfoot, only 500+ houses. Mark described that because of the lack of a community hub, it has proved difficult to create a community group within the village. The Council took the decision to step in and facilitated a high quality consultation with the residents of Waterfoot on what they would like in terms of community space. Access to a community green space and somewhere for children to play came out on top.

Mark explained that the ground conditions at the proposed site caused costs to be more than initially expected. This meant that something would have to be taken out of the proposed project and unfortunately it would be the play equipment. He said LEADER would provide the additional money required to complete this project and provide a facility that would assist in drawing the residents of Waterfoot together and be an important hub for the community.

The LAG didn't think this project was community led and some were under the impression that the council had made an error in the dealings with a house builder. Some members stated it didn't come across as additional. The LAG refused to fund the installation of the children's playpark.

**LAG Decision: Refused**

## Cooperation Project – Crowdfunding Officers

Keren summarised the information that was previously sent out to the LAG;

With Forth Valley LAG being the lead LAG, 9 additional LAGs across the central belt have been invited to take part in a cooperation project to fund 5 crowdfunding officers for two years, resulting in 0.5 FTE post in each LAG area. Each LAG would contribute £40K creating a total project cost of £400K.

The LAG had a number of questions relating to the cash flow of the project and how much the contractor was charging for their services. Keren asked for all questions to be emailed to her by Friday 1<sup>st</sup> June and she would send the LAG a reply as soon as Forth Valley LAG has responded.

The LAG suggested that if they were to approve the project, it would be on the basis of no less than 6 LAGs being involved. They will wait to read the responses to emailed questions and reply electronically with a decision on the project by 8<sup>th</sup> June 2018.

**8. AOCB:**

**9. Date of Next Meeting:**

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> July

