Scottish Borders LEADER
Developing Enterprising Communities

SCOTTISH BORDERS LEADER PROGRAMME 2014-2020
Local Action Group meeting
18th October 2018
10am at Tweed Horizons, Newtown St Boswells

MINUTES

Present:
Heather Batsch, The Bridge (HB) - Voluntary
Frank Beattie, Scottish Enterprise (FB) - Public
Clare de Bolle, YouthBorders (CdB) - Voluntary
Gordon Harrison, Scottish Borders Community Council Network (GH) - Voluntary
Jules Horne, Creative Arts Business Network (JH) - Private
Bryan McGrath, Scottish Borders Council (BMcG) - Public
Jane Rosegrant, Borders Forest Trust (JR) – Voluntary
Annabelle Scott, Messrs A A Scott (AS) - Private
Gary White, Peebles CAN (GW) - Voluntary

Secretariat:
Linda Cornwall, Scottish Borders Council (LEADER Co-ordinator) (LCo)
Simon Lynch, Scottish Borders Council (LEADER Facilitator) (SL)
Bartje Magee, Scottish Borders Council (European Programme Support Officer) (BM)
Nesta Todd, Scottish Borders Council (European Programme Support Officer) (NT)

		Action
1.0	**Apologies** Hans Waltl, Federation of Small Businesses (HW) – Private Luke Comins, Tweed Forum (LC) – Voluntary Ian MacDonald (IMacD), NFU Scotland	
2.0	**Conflict of Interest** GH reported a conflict of interest for Ettrick & Yarrow Valley Projects AS reported a conflict of interest for Rural Retreat BMcG reported a conflict of interest for Whiteadder	
3.0	**Minutes from last meeting** Minutes were approved – HB proposed and AS seconded	
4.0	**Election of LAG Chair, Vice-chair and Business Group Chair** JR, GW and HW all agreed to stand for re-election. LAG committee voted unanimously for all three members to continue in their roles. CdB expressed thanks for their hard work and commitment, all agreed.	

5.0	**Membership of Business sub-group** • IT resigned from the LAG due to time pressures • JR was elected onto the business sub-group	
6.0	**LEADER LDS Programme Amendments** (AS left, conflict of interest) Scottish Government has changed budget targets. Minimum target for Co-operation projects (currently 10%) is down to 5%. Farm Diversification and Business budgets (10% each) can now be combined but should still be 20% in total. LAG discussed implications of these changes and whether these changes should lead to prioritising differently. Was there an opportunity to re-allocate co-operation funds into Communities fund? Timescale of programme was considered too tight to make changes to priorities. LAG approved LDS change request to reduce Cooperation target to a minimum of 5% (could still aim for 10%) and to amalgamate the Farm Diversification and Business budgets. (AS returned)	LC
7.0	**Project Applications Round 9** It was noted that 9 members were present (quorate), 2 members represented the public sector (<50%)	
7.1	[Project details and LAG discussions are not published in these Minutes] **17/P00046** **Total Eligible Project costs: £149,187.00** **LEADER grant requested: £74,593.50 (Scottish Borders share of costs)** **Average Score: 60.29%** **Decision: APPROVE** **Decision:** Approved unanimously, 8 votes	
7.2	[Project details and LAG discussions are not published in these Minutes] **17/P00056** **Total Eligible Project costs: £30,000.00** **LEADER grant requested: £15,000.00 (Scottish Borders share of costs)** **Average Score: 65.60%** **Decision: APPROVE** **Decision:** Approved, with 7 votes for, 1 against	

7.3	[Project details and LAG discussions are not published in these Minutes] **17/P00076** **Total Eligible Project costs: £259,850.00** **LEADER grant requested: £205,284** **Scottish Borders share: 143,698.80** **Average Score: 57.50%** **Decision: DEFER** (BMcG left, conflict of interest) **Decision:** Deferred 3 votes, approved 2 votes, reject 2 votes Decision to defer, subject to the applicant either providing more definitive evidence of need for excavation works or removing £80,000 from Project budget until proof of need can be given. (BMcG returned)	
8.0	**Community applications**	
8.1	[Project details and LAG discussions are not published in these Minutes] **17/P00050** **Total Eligible Project costs: £46,217.00** **LEADER grant requested: £24,292** **Average Score: 70.26%%** **Decision: APPROVE** (GH left, conflict of interest) **Decision:** Approved unanimously, 7 votes (GH returned)	
8.2	[Project details and LAG discussions are not published in these Minutes] **17/P00077** **Total Eligible Project costs: £35,420.89** **LEADER grant requested: £21.020.89** **Average Score: 52.62%** **Decision: REJECT** **Background:** **Decision:** Rejected, 5 votes against, 2 votes for, 1 abstained.	

9.0	**LEADER Programme Progress Report** Report highlighted project progress to date and budgetary updates. It also updated the LAG on work challenges and expected staffing pressures. Facilitator post is to be discontinued in December (in line with LDS original vision) and claims support will be reduced during Nov/Dec 2018. Concern expressed by LAG of reduction in staffing and possible negative effect to programme delivery, JR will gather LAG views on this matter via email. JR and BMcG to meet to discuss further.	JR/BMcG
10.0	**AOB** BMcG updated the meeting on progress in regard to the South of Scotland Enterprise Agency. Outcome of consultation exercises will be known early in the new year. SOSEP in place at moment – interim grouping. JR attended the LAG Chairs Meeting. Main focus of the meeting was on possible re-distribution of unallocated funds and measures which may be put in place to accommodate this. Scottish Rural Parliament event also highlighted and the need to promote LEADER as much as possible to encourage future funding options.	
11.0	**Dates and times of future meetings** Closing date for next round of applications : 30th October 2018 Date of Next Meeting : 22nd January 2019	
12.0	**BUSINESS SUB GROUP** It was noted that 6 members were present (quorate), 2 members represented the public sector (<50%) JR to act as Chair in HW's absence	
12.1	[Project details and LAG discussions are not published in these Minutes] **17/P00080** **Total Eligible Project costs: £59,392.00** **LEADER grant requested: £29,696.00 (50.00%)** **Average Score: 50.10%** **Decision: APPROVE** **Decision:** Approved, 4 for, 1 against	

12.2	[Project details and LAG discussions are not published in these Minutes] **17/P00075** **Total Eligible Project costs: £107,771.44** **LEADER grant requested: £47,771.44 (44.32662308%)** **Average Score: 62.88%** **Decision: APPROVE** **Decision:** Approved unanimously, 5 for	
12.3	[Project details and LAG discussions are not published in these Minutes] **17/P00083** **Total Eligible Project costs: £159,000.00** **LEADER grant requested: £50,000.00 (31.44654088%)** **Average Score: 50.00%** **Decision: APPROVE** **Decision**: Approved, 4 for, 1 against	
12.4	[Project details and LAG discussions are not published in these Minutes] **17/P00078** **Total Eligible Project costs: £106,150.89** **LEADER grant requested: £50,000.00 (47.10276098%)** **Average Score: 62.88%** **Decision: APPROVE** **Decision**: Approved unanimously, 5 for.	
12.5	[Project details and LAG discussions are not published in these Minutes] **17/P00069** **Total Eligible Project costs: £72,285.58** **LEADER grant requested: £36,142.79 (50.00%)** **Average Score: 56.15%** **Decision: DEFER** **Decision**: Deferred, 4 votes, 1 reject Deferral to written procedures once costs have been clarified and subject to	

	planning permission.	
12.6	[Project details and LAG discussions are not published in these Minutes] **17/P00081** **Total Eligible Project costs: £122,480.00** **LEADER grant requested: £50,000.00 (40.82299151%)** **Average Score: 61.25%** **Decision: APPROVE** **Decision**: Approved unanimously, 5 votes	
12.7	[Project details and LAG discussions are not published in these Minutes] **17/P00072** **Total Eligible Project costs: £137,680.00** **LEADER grant requested: £50,000.00 (36.31609529%)** **Average Score: 61.65%** **Decision: APPROVE** (AS left, conflict of interest) **Decision**: Approved unanimously, 4 votes	
	Meeting closed 15:45	