

Gwynedd LAG minutes - LEADER.

30/11/16

Dylan's, Criccieth

**Present:**

Representatives from the Enterprise Sector:	
Anwen Jones (AJ)	PEG Tourism subgroup
Alun Wyn Evans (AWE)	NFU/FUW
Gwion Llwyd (GLI)	Dioni
Gwennan Williams (GW)	Bwyty Lleu
Representatives from the Voluntary Sector	
Craig ab Iago (CI)	LAG Chair – Dyffryn Nantlle 2020
Arwel Jones (AJ)	Partneriaeth Llyn
Bob Lowe (BL)	Plas Heli Cyf
Representatives from the Public Sector	
Aled Jones-Griffith (AJG)	Grŵp Llandrillo Menai
Dylan Rhys Griffiths (DRG)	Gwynedd Council
Representatives from Menter Môn	
Dafydd Gruffydd (DG)	
Llywelyn Rhys (LIRh)	
Eleth Peate (EP)	
Aaron Warren (AW)	
Rhian Hughes (RH)	
Sioned Morgan Thomas (SMT)	
Rachel Roberts (RR)	
Katie Hughes-Ellis (KHE)	
Ann Pierce-Jones (APJ)	
Representatives from the Welsh Government	
John Davies (JD)	Head of the Wales Rural Network

Point	Details	Action
<b>LAG meeting</b>		
1	Craig ap Iago welcomed everyone to the meeting.	
2	<p>Apologies were received from 8 members via APJ.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gwenan Williams- Bwyty Lleu</li> <li>• Dr Einir Young - Bangor University</li> <li>• Sian Thomas - Gisda</li> <li>• Ceri Cunnington – Antur Stiniog</li> <li>• Ian Nellist - FSB</li> <li>• David Ingham - DIY Industries Ltd.</li> <li>• Delyth Vaughan - Mantell Gwynedd</li> <li>• Mandy Williams-Davies - Public / Councillor</li> <li>• Menna Jones - Antur Waunfawr</li> </ul>	
3	<p><b><u>Staff report:</u></b>  DG welcomed new staff and introduced CI as the new Chair.  The staff introduced themselves to the meeting.  John Davies introduced himself as Head of the Wales Rural Network. He explained that the network is in place to support with administration, to provide guidance when necessary, to facilitate training where needed and to spread good practice.</p>	
4	<p><b><u>Expressions of Interest</u></b>  There were no expressions of interest.</p>	
5	<p><b><u>Minutes 28.09.16</u></b>  The minutes of the meeting were confirmed. There were no matters arising. Proposed: Aled Jones-Griffith and Seconded by: Arwel Jones.  <b><u>Matters Arising:</u></b>  <b>Ynni Ogwen</b> - need to present the positive example widely. The intention is to actively disseminate good practice as the new staff are now in place.  <b>Ysgol Ynni</b> – Further talks have taken place with Osborn Jones. The Sub-Group has already agreed to support Ysgol Ynni in summer 2017 using the surplus funding from 2016.  <b>Byw a Bod Digital</b>- AJG wants the college to provide courses that will respond better.</p>	

	<p><b>Byw a Bod Performance</b> - AJG wanted the meeting to understand that what he said during a meeting on 28.09.16 had been noted too strongly/negatively in the minutes, and that he did not intend it to come across in this way. It was agreed to change the minutes to reflect this.</p>	<p>APJ</p>
6.	<p><b><u>Presentation by Keith Jones</u></b></p> <p>Keith Jones gave an interesting presentation on the Cyd Ynni Business Plan and the processes that have been followed in order to establish Community energy groups, such as:</p> <p>Ynni Ogwen - has employed local people.</p> <p>Ynni Padarn Peris - 1.5 months before starting production.</p> <p>Ynni Anafon - 20% ahead of the business plan and looking into registering as a charity because of tax.</p> <p>Moelyci Farm – Using hay/ road waste as a way of producing energy.</p> <p>Coetir Mynydd - Following the Penrhyn quarrymen’s paths. He explained that the aim is to bring a benefit to the community above all else.</p> <p>Recently Cyd Ynni received two awards:</p> <p>Category Award - Community Engagement in the Renewables UK Cymru Awards; and</p> <p>Cynnal Cymru Awards 2016 High Recognition Certificate in the best Sustainable Community Group category.</p> <p>Officer appointed - Beca Roberts of Tregarth was appointed as a Support Officer for Ynni Ogwen for 6 months and she will look into the feasibility of other sustainable projects in the valley as well as supporting the completion of hydro scheme.</p> <p>KJ explained that it was difficult to get customers and that this was possibly because the public believed the cost may be higher. Possibility of 30% savings on electricity in one year, even if not investors.</p> <p>The BBC has been filming for 2 months and is continuing to do so.</p> <p>Also hope to employ and support someone to do a PhD</p>	
8.	<p><b><u>Financial report</u></b></p>	

	<p>DG explained that financial expenditure will be taken forward to next year due to under-spending.  £29,000 left after approving Dark Skies and Art Giving/Rhodd Celf.  Keen not to under-spend excessively.  LAG has approved expenditure of £5,000 under each theme to pay for expertise.</p> <p><b>Need an extra £5,000 for Theme 2 and 3. LAG members were happy to approve and agree to this expenditure.</b></p>	<p>AW</p>
<p><b>AGW Update</b></p>		
<p>9.</p>	<p><b>General Update</b></p> <p>LIRh gave an update on the change in Subgroups. He explained that the 5 groups are now 3 in order to facilitate the members' time and the process of bringing applications to the LAG.  An update was given to the members of some of Gwynedd Rural Innovation active projects to date, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Indycube / Hwb Arloesi</b> – it was explained that Hwb Arloesi was a space in Porthmadog where people could bring their laptops. It is possible to book a place through the Indycube electronic system @ about £12 per day with free tea/ coffee. Fast 70 meg Broadband is available. There are 4 users at the moment, and a meeting room to rent out. A Tech and Talk event was held on Thursday 24 November and Mark Hooper who established Indycube came over to speak, along with North Wales Tech and a local artist. There are videos of the event etc on Facebook and Twitter</li> </ul> <p>Hwb Arloesi will move to Canolfan Porthmadog in January. There will be a reduction in the number of desks from 10 to 4. There will be an opportunity to re-launch the event as a way of promoting and raising awareness further. AJG reported similar provision in the Albert Dock, Liverpool and that they charge a price per minute, and perhaps that model should be considered here.  <a href="http://www.albertdock.com/food-drink/cafes/ziferblat/">http://www.albertdock.com/food-drink/cafes/ziferblat/</a></p> <p>DG agreed that someone will look at Ziferblat.  DG reported that it is possible for Indycube to run the provision going forward and Mark Hooper reported that a</p>	<p>DG</p>

	<p>natural theme comes out of sharing space e.g. a group of designers.</p> <p>LIRh said that perhaps we should consider providing a printing / scanning service and that it would be useful to have one laptop available for users.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>outsourcing non statutory services</b> – SMT reported that members approved six pilot projects at the last meeting and proceeded to give a brief update by area: <b>Barmouth</b> - Looking at the harbour and open spaces and helping with elements of a business plan over Christmas and the New Year. <b>Lloyd George Museum</b> – A diagnostic tool was used and the feedback by friends of the museum and the Council has been positive. There was a deficit of £33,000 per annum during 2016. Ideas will be considered over the next 6 months e.g. admission charge, a cafe, more volunteers, looking at the number of visitors / visits, reduced opening hours and how to increase income. Eager to do more marketing and want to apply for a Lottery grant for this purpose. Need a pilot supported by AGW. AJ asked whether it was possible to link with the Coastal Path (e.g. toilets) and perhaps ask Gwyn, Plas Glyn y Weddw for input. SMT reported that contact has already been made. DG reported that a web site was needed externally/ independent of the Council’s website. <b>Bala</b> – The contracts are not generating income. Arloesi has brought in a consultant in to look at the changes in the new year. <b>Nefyn and Dyffryn Ogwen</b> - Discussions ongoing with the Council to negotiate and that information will be shared by Steffan of Conwy Council who is experienced re. the transfer of libraries. <b>Blaenau</b> - A discussion between the Council and the Community Group has been facilitated, and feedback is expected from that meeting.</li></ul>	
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	<p>£40,000 has been earmarked and approved for the costs of the Community Ownership project. £8085 has been spent to date.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Project highlights video</b> Video highlights of some of the projects were shown.</li> </ul>	
<b>Full Project Proposals</b>		
10.	<p><b><u>Dark Skies - Astro Tourism</u></b></p> <p>DG presented the project to the members and explained that only 11 Dark Sky areas throughout the world have received the designation and that the National Park is one of these. The intention is that Astro tourism will extend the holiday season and that visitors will be attracted in the period between October to March. This will bring economic value. An open call will go out to 10 businesses within the Park. Equipment and training will be provided for them – binoculars and star charts will be available on the basis of collecting information for AGW.</p> <p>RR will move the project forward and the Sub-Group has discussed and approved the application.</p> <p>DRG asked whether it was possible to extend and get a toolkit. Because the designation had been given to the National Park, DG explained that the pilot had to take place within the Park. BL asked whether there was potential to link to the myths and perhaps night wildlife?</p> <p>GLI asked whether it was possible to link with astro-photography and to contact Kris Williams, Anglesey who is an acclaimed astro-photographer and maybe offer photography lessons.</p> <p>DG explained that this is only a phase 1 in order to learn lessons and share.</p> <p><b>LAG members approved the Dark Skies pilot project at a total of £20,000.</b></p>	
7.2	<p><b><u>Art Giving/Rhodd Celf</u></b></p> <p>DG presented the project to the members and explained that art is very important but there is a need to reduce pressure on the public purse. The pilot will be based on the Visitor Giving model where visitors give a voluntary donation as an addition to any expenditure made by art customers. The hope is to prove that there can be new ways of raising money for the arts in communities. We need to recognise other fundraising options and create a brand, a website</p>	

	<p>and marketing materials and work with galleries, theatres and museums to establish a new system.</p> <p>Talks have taken place with a group in Caernarfon but there will be no commitment until arts businesses are willing to collaborate.</p> <p><b>LAG members approved the Art Giving/Rhodd Celf pilot project at a total of £12,500.</b></p>	
<b>Other issues:</b>		
11	<p><b><u>The long-term sustainability of plans</u></b></p> <p>CI was keen to stress a view on the importance of long-term sustainability of plans.</p> <p>DG noted that what is being learned is just as important.</p> <p>DRG noted that it was important to pass the information on as part of sustainability and to ensure information sharing.</p>	
12	<p><b><u>RCDF applications</u></b></p> <p>LIRh reported that it was important to make sure that there were objectives in the local plan strategy.</p> <p>Recent RCDF applications have been agreed and signed.</p> <p>JD confirmed that AGW cannot share information on who has been successful.</p> <p><b>Members agreed to support the RCDF applications.</b></p>	
13	<b>General issues</b>	
13.1	<p><b><u>Visit by EU Officials</u></b></p> <p>DG reported that Merak, an official from Brussels, visited RDP Meirionnydd projects with staff members, Gwion Llwyd and members of the Wales Rural Network on 25 October 2016.</p> <p>JD said that he had received a message from Merak commending the visit and thanking everyone very much for the welcome.</p>	
13.2	<p><b><u>SATORI Lab event</u></b></p> <p>DG gave a brief update on the event and reported that there were about 8 spaces available if someone wanted to invite others.</p> <p>A slide with information about the location and timetable was shown.</p>	
<b>Next date</b>		
	<b>Date of next meeting, February 15, 2017 at 13.00, Neuadd Ogwen, Bethesda.</b>	

