



Gwynedd Local Action Group Minutes-LEADER

13.04.16

Plas Heli, Pwllheli.

Present:

Representatives from the Enterprise sector:		
Menna Jones	(MJ)	Chair LAG, Antur Waunfawr
Gwion Llwyd	(GLI)	Dioni
Llywelyn Rhys	(LIR)	Fflam Ltd
Ceri Cunningham	(CC)	Antur Stiniog
Anwen Jones	(AJ)	PEG Tourism sub-group
Alun Wyn Evans	(AWE)	NFU/FUW
Representatives from the Voluntary Sector		
Bob Lowe	(BL)	Plas Heli
Sian Tomos	(ST)	Gisda
Representatives from the Public Sector		
O G Thomas	(OGT)	Un Llais Cymru
Ifer Gwyn		Snowdonia National Park
Representatives from Menter Môn		
Zoe Pritchard	(ZP)	<i>Minutes</i>
Dafydd Gruffydd	(DG)	
Aaron Warren	(AW)	
Bethan Fraser-Williams	(BFS)	
Rhian Hughes	(RH)	
Sioned Morgan Thomas	(SMT)	
Rachel Roberts	(RR)	

Point	Details	Action
Local Action Group Meeting		
1	Menna Jones welcomed everyone to the meeting. MJ thanked Bob Lowe for arranging today's special location.	
2	Apologies were received from 8 members via MJ Coun. Mandy Williams-Davies, Gwynedd Council Gwenan Williams, Bwyty Lleu Ian Nellist – Gwynedd Branch Small Businesses Federation	

	Arwel Jones – Partneriaeth Llŷn Delyth Vaughan – Mantell Gwynedd Dr Einir Young – Bangor University Aled Jones-Griffith – Coleg Llandrillo- Menai David Ingham – D.I.Y Industries Ltd	
3	Declarations of interest: Alun Wyn Evans declared an interest in the Dyfi Biosphere application as he owns land within the biosphere.	
4	Minutes 24.02.16 The minutes of the meeting were confirmed. Proposed: Alun Wyn Evans Seconded: Llewelyn Rhys	
AGW Update		
5.1	<p>General Update</p> <p>A presentation was given to members of some of Arloesi Gwynedd Wledig's live projects to date, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project 15 speakers were announced last week. The Project 15 website is now live www.prosiect15.cymru and there will be a live booking system on the Pontio Bangor website next week. The event is on 8th June, 2016. Should any member of the LAG be interested in attending, please let BFW/ZP know. • It was announced that the 2 videos on crowd funding for Ynni Ogwen and Ynni Padarn Peris have been live since March. It was noted that Ynni Ogwen's target in terms of shares was £160,000, and they have now reached £272,600! <p>It was noted that the target for Ynni Padarn Peris (a scheme of lower value than Ogwen) was for shares of £100,000, and they had also beaten the target and reached £190,000 to date! The two community groups were congratulated on their hard work.</p> <p>There was a brief debate on the report that will be generated at the end of this pilot project trialling crowd funding. It was confirmed that the purpose of this scheme was not to look at renewable energy systems and the wider opportunities for communities within the field, but rather to trial crowd funding in the hope of creating a 'tool-kit' at the end that would provide guidance for any other community that has considered raising money through crowd funding. It was agreed that the crowd funding method is very efficient in terms of local purchase into the scheme, and creating local and intensive ownership of the scheme.</p>	ZP/BFW

	<p>LAG members felt that there was also an opportunity to look at different methods of community energy, and that Arloesi had a duty to try to promote innovation opportunities for communities' benefit. One suggestion was that Arloesi collates all the projects and contacts within the field, and grows to be a contact point for any community in the county who is considering looking into community renewable energy. Also, in parallel to being a point of contact, it would be possible to create a guide to the different possible models related to 'Community Benefits', the implications of different systems, and what does success look like?</p> <p>It was agreed that Arloesi staff would look at this in more detail within the 'Cyd-Ynni' scheme.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A film was shown to members that had been made in-house by Aaron, and it was confirmed that Be Nesa Llŷn is going from strength to strength, with one panel again tonight to assess another proposal. • It was confirmed that Aberdaron Free Wi-fi is being established this week – but it will probably not be available to the public until May, as the signal takes a few weeks to settle and strengthen. • A draft 'spoof' film was shown to members promoting the 'World's Most Welsh Awards'. Although the video was quite challenging, the members were supportive and happy for the scheme to develop along these lines. 	
5.2	<p>Framework</p> <p>ZP explained that the EU procurement rules require Arloesi to adhere to the following procedure when ordering goods or services: £0 - £4,999: one estimate only £5,000 - £24,999: 3 written estimates £25,000 or over: formal tendering process required.</p> <p>However, in daily use in the office, the rules can create barriers and delay some elements of the work, and the framework system was explained to members as a second means of acquiring services. It was explained that some costs within pilot projects will from now on identify the supplier as 'Framework' - and for LAG members to be comfortable with this terminology.</p> <p>ZP was asked if she could share a brief appendix with members to explain the process of creating a framework. AGW staff have by now received many enquiries about the new scheme, as well as queries related to the old scheme.</p>	ZP
Full Project Proposals		
6.1	<p><u>Byw a Bod: Digital</u></p> <p>DG explained the scheme to the members, emphasising what was learned from</p>	

	<p>the pilot namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gwynedd has high quality career opportunities • Gwynedd has good life experiences. • Gwynedd produces a high quality workforce <p>It was asked exactly what travel costs were tied to the project, and whether they were to fund students who lived outside Gwynedd? It was confirmed that they were only for undergraduate students from Gwynedd, and that the funding was to support students from distant/rural areas of Gwynedd to reach Parc Menai, Bangor.</p> <p>It was asked in what format was the film, and it was explained that the aim is to produce a film 5-7 minutes in length at the end of the scheme, with the main aim of promoting the opportunities in the field.</p> <p>It was noted that there was a wider audience in the County than just students, as there was a lack of understanding and awareness within the public sector of the high value job opportunities emphasised here. It was suggested that organisations within the public sector would benefit from this pilot project as well.</p> <p>IG suggested that it would be useful to share this model with WG/GC officers and the Park, because they are also struggling to recruit suitable employees in the ICT field.</p> <p>It was asked how the placements for the 5 students would be advertised. It was confirmed that it would be an open public process, but that it was restricted to undergraduate students who live in Gwynedd and who are studying science subjects. The LAG suggested that there was a need to make the sciences clearer when advertising the placements.</p> <p>The group approved Byw a Bod: Digital project costs to the value of £28,500.</p>	RR
	<p><u>Byw a Bod: Performing</u></p> <p>DG presented the project to the members, based on the principles of the previous digital scheme, but this time the field is different in that it will be recruiting arts students and getting them to work on live/street performances presenting the Welsh language and culture to visitors.</p>	



	<p>One small comment noted was to take into account the different dialects that are out there if teaching Welsh to visitors.</p> <p>IG suggested contacting Visit Wales (Mari Stevens in particular), in order to discuss the grants and assistance that come via them – which may touch on pop-up performances similar to this aim. Need to contact to ensure that there is no duplication, or that the source is mainstreamed by Visit Wales at the end of the pilot project. It was suggested to invite Mari to a meeting of the LAG in the future.</p> <p>DG noted that student employment costs have risen from the original £6,750 to £9,000 – in order to ensure that the 5 placements appeal, and that the quality is good. LAG members agreed to the increase in the cost of employing the students, and also to increase the reserves of £1,000 to £2,700 to ensure that the financial reserves can cope with unexpected costs that may arise with an innovative project like this. It was agreed that the total new cost would be £27,000.</p> <p>LAG members approved the Byw a Bod: Performing pilot project at a total cost of £27,000.</p> <hr/> <p><u>Dyfi Biosphere</u></p> <p>SMT presented this collaborative project to members. It was confirmed that this was a cross-border project with Ceredigion (lead), Powys and Gwynedd authorities. It was noted that the contribution of the counties has been divided on the basis of population within the Dyfi Biosphere area in the 3 Counties. Concern was raised by the LAG that the Dyfi Biosphere Partnership has been in existence for 15 years, and the project looks like a direct grant to a particular group, especially with the mention that the cost of the plan may increase. AWE noted as a member who owns land within the Biosphere area that he was aware of local feedback and the feeling that there is not enough drive. There was support to develop the area in the past. He confirmed that there was local interest in the designation, but over time faith had been lost because of lack of local capacity and organisation.</p> <p>IG confirmed that he sat on the Biosphere Partnership, representing the SNPA, and he sees an opportunity here to develop activities across a wide area of the Biosphere as a whole, and not in small pockets as has happened in the past. He saw an opportunity to show the true value of the designated brand, and that this</p>	<p>RR/ZP</p>
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	<p>is a challenge because the area is spread across 3 County borders.</p> <p>Further enquiries were made about the animator job i.e. what were the duties of the job, and would it be sustainable.</p> <p>In response it was noted that it was possible for the officer to make the role more sustainable by working on innovative projects and attracting more money into the area. It was noted that there was jealousy/interest within designated areas, such as e.g. the AONB, in the role of an officer such as this, and that there was excitement in the field in terms of the ability to develop and benefit more from this special designation.</p> <p>It was asked what will happen after 2 years, were there specific targets/outputs attached to the job? SMT explained that sub-group members had raised similar concerns, and that they had suggested the job should focus on the following objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Adding value (for communities and businesses through the use of the designated Biosphere brand) - Educational element for people (schools and social clubs) - Find ways of raising funds and other funding from financial assistance beyond LEADER in the future. <p>Members felt that if they agree to support the pilot project, it would be worthwhile to get the officer to attend the LAG meeting to give an update on the work.</p> <p>SMT noted that the possibility that the total project cost and the contribution of AGW (a contribution of £9360.20 over 2 years as stated in today's proposal) will increase due to the officer's salary scale agreed with Ceredigion Council (which employs the officer) as well confirming operational funding for the officer.</p> <p>The group approved a maximum sum of £12,000 as a contribution by Arloesi Gwynedd Wledig to this project. The final agreement was delegated to the sub-group.</p> <hr/> <p>Visitor Donations</p> <p>DG presented the Visitors Donations pilot project jointly with RH to the group. It was noted that the registration form has been circulated among the businesses around the Snowdon area, and that 18 businesses have already registered to participate in the pilot. It was confirmed that a management committee will be established to manage the pilot project. The 18 businesses will be meeting as a</p>	
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	<p>group for the first time next Tuesday (19th April in the Electric Mountain, Llanberis).</p> <p>It was asked how the 3 causes had been decided, and RH explained that a public consultation held in November 2015 decided on the causes.</p> <p>It was noted that this is an 18 month project, and that it is impossible to predict all the costs that can arise, and it was asked whether the LAG could add £2,000 as a reserve, increasing the total cost of the scheme to £27,000. The LAG agreed to this increase.</p> <p>It was commented that running the project in a designated local area, such as the area around Snowdon, is a lot easier than a whole-Gwynedd scheme. It is easier to determine to what causes the money will be contributed towards in a small area, and that there is a risk that communities will feel under-represented in a whole-Gwynedd scheme. It was suggested that considerable thought is required now to this, to develop the scheme ready for transfer after the 18 month period. IG noted that the SNPA had considered a similar scheme in the past, but there was a lack of interest, partly due to people's uncertainty about funding and managing the causes. He agreed that this development, which has secured the ownership of businesses/local community from the start, has secured a strong basis for the scheme, and a likelihood of success. He noted if this had been pushed by the Public Sector, that there would not have been so much interest or ownership in the first instance.</p> <p>The group approved a higher total project cost of £27,000 due to the allocation of a £2,000 reserve.</p> <hr/> <p>YNNI PLANT</p> <p>DG presented this small pilot project to members.</p> <p>It was asked why the project was within the specified areas of Felinwda, Llandwrog and Brynaerau districts, and he confirmed that that was the location of the volunteers, Osborn Jones and Arwel Elias.</p> <p>There was support for the focus on renewable energy, particularly the link between the old green energy that was in the area 200 years ago, and today's systems.</p> <p>One member of the sub-group noted that they had raised concerns about the topic, and changes were made to the work programme so that it focussed more on green energy.</p> <p>LIRh had also raised concerns that there was a need to ensure equality between</p>	
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	<p>boys and girls, to coincide with a national campaign recently on attracting more women to the energy/ sciences sector. It was confirmed that a change had been made in terms of the allocation of placements - 10 for girls and 10 for boys - to try to ensure that.</p> <p>MJ suggested that it was possible to link 1-2 students to this pilot project (similar to the Byw a Bod projects), as an example to the children who will participate in the project. It would be great if the student was a girl studying sciences/energy as a way of inspiring the girls, especially as the two leaders of the energy school are men.</p> <p>The LAG also felt that there was a need for the work package to focus on showing/ promoting employment opportunities for local school children within the field of renewable energy. This is important in order to show the link between what the children are learning and real career opportunities in Gwynedd. Perhaps it is possible to link in with some leading companies in the area such as Magnox/ Electric Mountain etc.</p> <p>Following the suggestion of employing one student, it was agreed to increase the project sum to £3,000, in order to employ a student. It was agreed to delegate the final decision of the costs to the Theme 4 sub-group.</p> <p>The LAG approved an increase in the cost of the project from the original amount of £5,450 to £8,450, and to delegate the final decision to the Theme 4 sub-group.</p>	
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Other matters:

9	<p>Response to LAG comments:</p> <p>LAG members discussed the role of scrutinising the projects, and the role of the staff in responding to LAG’s comments. ZP stated that she is aware of cases where the feedback has been dealt with/responded to.</p> <p>It was noted that arrangements have recently been amended in order to provide better opportunities to respond to comments (not only the sub-group, but specialist comments in the field and relevant bodies).</p> <p>There is a section within the project proposal form where there is an opportunity to note feedback / comments, with space for Arloesi staff to note the response or changes that have been made as a result of those comments.</p> <p>It was asked what kind of monitoring system was on the programme, and it was confirmed that the Welsh Government will be able to conduct an audit of the</p>	
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	<p>programme at any time, but that the audit's focus will be more on eligibility of expenditure.</p> <p>The discussion proceeded to talk about high-risk projects, with the comment that projects so far have been quite safe, and guaranteed to succeed. There was agreement, but everyone felt that the group is starting to get used to the new programme and its expectations, and in the future members will be more confident to support high-risk projects. Members commented that they need to be more courageous from now on, and to be more open to innovative projects that are high risk.</p> <p>It was asked how it was possible to accept high risk or challenging ideas, and one suggestion was to set up events (like Ted Talks) which provide a platform for people to talk about new ideas, or challenges.</p> <p>It was also mentioned that there are internal conversations between Arloesi staff to create monthly challenges e.g. "How can we revive high streets", and that we invite people to submit their ideas. The LAG is supportive of that, and it was noted that the LAG could be updated in the next meeting about the monthly challenges.</p>	
Date of next meeting		
	<p>The date of the next meeting is 29th June 2016 at 1 o'clock, Coleg Llandrillo Menai, GLYNLLIFON SITE.</p>	

