

Gwynedd LAG minutes - LEADER.

19.07.17

Gwersyll Glan Llyn, Llanuwchllyn, Y Bala

**Present:**

Representation from the Enterprise Sector:		
Gwion Llwyd	(GLI)	Dioni Self Catering Cyf
Dafydd Watts	(DW)	Energy Saving Trust
Ian Nellist	(IN)	FSB
Anwen Jones	(AJ)	PEG Tourism Sub-Group
Alun Wyn Evans	(AWE)	NFU/FUW
Representation from the Voluntary Sector		
Craig ab Iago	(CI)	LAG chairman - Dyffryn Nantlle 2020
Arwel Jones	(AJ)	Partneriaeth Llŷn
David Ingham	(DI)	DIY Industries Cyf
Siân Elen Tomos	(SET)	GISDA
Delyth Vaughan Rowlands	(DVR)	Mantell Gwynedd
Representation from the Public Sector		
O G Thomas	(OG)	One Voice Wales
Representation from Arloesi Gwynedd Wledig		
Dafydd Gruffydd	(DG)	
Llywelyn Rhys	(LIRh)	
Aaron Warren	(AW)	
Rhian Hughes	(RH)	
Sioned Morgan Thomas	(SMT)	
Katie Hughes-Ellis	(KHE)	
Ann Pierce-Jones	(APJ)	
Rachel Roberts	(RR)	
Buddug Turner	(BT)	Rural Network Cymru / Welsh Government

Point	Details	Action
<b>LAG meeting</b>		
1.	Craig ap Iago extended a welcome to everyone to the meeting.	
2.	<p>Apologies were received from 8 members via APJ.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eleth Peate – Arloesi Gwynedd Wledig</li> <li>• Dr Einir Young - Bangor University</li> <li>• Aled Jones-Griffith – Grŵp Llandrillo Menai</li> <li>• Dylan Griffiths – Representative from Gwynedd Council</li> <li>• Coun. Ioan Thomas – Gwynedd Council</li> <li>• Ceri Cunnington – Cwmni Bro Ffestiniog</li> <li>• Bob Lowe – Plas Heli</li> <li>• Helen Pye – Snowdonia National Park</li> <li>• Gwenan Williams – Bwyty Lleu</li> <li>• Menna Jones – Antur Waunfawr</li> </ul>	
3.	<p><b><u>Declarations of interest</u></b></p> <p>There were no declarations of interest.</p>	
4.	<p><b><u>Talk by Huw Antur Edwards, Director, Gwersyll Glan Llyn.</u></b></p> <p>Huw explained the history of establishment of Glan Llyn. He explained that they offer a 12 months' training scheme (apprenticeships). The training scheme was initiated due to lack of qualified Welsh speakers in the outdoor pursuits sector. There are 6 new trainees each year, and the Year 2 Scheme has also begun.</p> <p>Four members of the team work out in the community, and they also work in South Wales.</p> <p>Gwersyll Glan Llyn employs 75 staff. 55 are employed on the outdoor side and twenty Urdd staff. They spend about £500,000 locally and employ local contractors for any structural work.</p> <p>This is a challenging time in terms of the economy. Schools do not promote outdoor pursuits as a career.</p>	
5.	<p><b><u>Minutes of the meeting on 26.04.2017</u></b></p> <p>The minutes of the meeting were confirmed. There were no matters arising.</p>	
6.	<b><u>Financial report</u></b>	

	<p>DG reported briefly on the financial position and showed accompanying slides:</p> <p>Hydroponics £8k Time to Venture £29k Bach a Sych £4,950 Dewin Ynni (extension of £2k)</p>	
<b>7. Update on current projects / New ideas.</b>		
	<p><b>1. <u>Rural Value</u></b></p> <p>LIRh gave an update on the idea and reported that ideas are being built up. We need to find a way to build value for outdoor activities. He explained that an open call will go out for businesses to work together to sell package holidays.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Adding value to natural assets by venturing into outdoor pursuits areas.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Identify where the growth is in activity holidays.</li> <li>– Stress the need to extend the tourist season.</li> <li>– Develop products and services that businesses offer already.</li> <li>– Attraction of a package holiday - weekend of running, diet, local food, cycling, triathlons, keeping fit, outdoor activities.</li> <li>– Foreign tourists are worth far more -1. get them here 2. make them spend more.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Project that will work with businesses which are located near the routes.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ask them to pilot new services.</li> <li>• Work with a business consultant who is familiar with the tourism industry and cycling.</li> <li>• This presupposes that a specific range of services will be offered by the businesses – from a service offering accommodation, food and drink to repair or hiring of bikes.</li> </ul> <p><b>The following proposals were received:</b>  <b>Collaborating with local cycling groups would be useful.</b>  <b>Blue Route is more relaxing and more likely to spend locally.</b>  <b>Desk Study.</b></p>	<p><b>LIRh</b></p>

	<p><b>Comment:</b>  <b>Lack of packaging of all sorts of holidays.</b></p> <p><b>2. <u>Byw a Bod Digidol</u></b></p> <p>RR gave an update on the project that is working cooperatively with Arloesi Môn. There are 5 young people from Gwynedd and 4 young people from Anglesey.</p> <p>The project has been running for 3 weeks and is for 10 weeks in total. The expo event will be at the end and the young people are coordinating with help from Arloesi.</p> <p>Clips of videos were shown.</p> <p><b>A proposal was received that we should look at the 'North Wales Ambition Board' - Iwan Thomas (Facebook page and Twitter).</b></p> <p><b>3. <u>Byw a Bod Perfformio</u></b></p> <p>RR gave an update on the project that is working cooperatively with Arloesi Môn.</p> <p>There are 6 young people from Gwynedd and 5 young people from Anglesey working on the project and there are videos available on Facebook and Twitter.</p> <p>Brief clips of videos were shown.</p> <p>The project received publicity on Radio Cymru on the morning of 19.07.2017.</p> <p><b>4. <u>Electric cars</u></b></p> <p>LIRh gave an update on the project and a brief video was shown. Reference was made to a Facebook and Twitter.</p> <p>The project is coming to an end in September.</p> <p><b>5. <u>Egin Cegin</u></b></p> <p>It was explained that the background was that Cymydmaen had received a grant of £50,000 several years ago to buy a kitchen. The kitchen is in a 'portacabin' at Ysgol Botwnnog. No use has been made of the kitchen.</p> <p>There may be scope for Arloesi Gwynedd to take on the unit but nothing firm has yet been discussed or decided.</p> <p>Any decision about the future of the unit in the hands of Cymydmaen. If there is no scope to buy, it may be possible to lease for 6 months. We</p>	<p>RR</p>
--	---	-----------

	expect to hear further.	
	<b>Break</b>	
<b>8. Applications for Approval</b>		
8.1	<p><b><u>Hydroponics</u></b></p> <p>DG presented the application to members and explained the need for a feasibility study in order to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Prepare a business model for the Gwynedd Hydroponics scheme</li> <li>– Outline the technical requirements for the model</li> <li>– Outline the cost requirements of establishing the model.</li> </ul> <p>It is necessary to test the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore a model to demonstrate hydroponics and establish a network of growers</li> <li>• Contribute towards adopting hydroponics, and establish a model that would encourage cooperation among farmers</li> </ul> <p>Dylan Ratigan (an entrepreneur from the USA) met with the Be Nesa Llŷn Group and stakeholders in Coleg Glynllifon to explain how the system works. There is enough interest to explore possible models to demonstrate hydroponics and establish a network of growers, and members of the subgroup are supportive.</p> <p><b>Point to note from Buddug Turner of the Assembly is the need to assess the feasibility within 30 days.</b></p> <p><b>The LAG members approved a pilot project at a total of £8,000 including VAT.</b></p>	DG
8.2	<p><b><u>Bach a Sych (Dry Anaerobic Digester)</u></b></p> <p>LIRh presented the application and explained that the project seeks to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manage farm waste that is at risk of entering the water system and polluting our rivers and lakes.</li> <li>• Evaluate innovative technology and ways of managing waste and by-products through a feasibility study and modelling</li> <li>• Study on two working farms to model the Dry Anaerobic Digester.</li> </ul> <p>It is hoped that the project will test:</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Whether farm waste such as manure and other organic materials can be managed sustainably in a Dry Anaerobic Digester and the creation of useful by-products - particularly fertilizer</li> <li>• Whether such a batch system is feasible, and how it fits with current or adaptable farming practices?</li> <li>• If it is likely to lead to improved nutrient management and reduce diffuse pollution?</li> </ul> <p>So far we have worked closely with SNPA, the National Trust and Biogas Action. Snowdonia Park's initial report indicates the challenges of managing waste and the Biogas Action Report suggests investigation would correspond well with the LEADER principles of innovation and risk.</p> <p>The energy subgroup is enthusiastic.</p> <p><b>Note that Llyndy Isaf not Llety Isaf is the property in Nantgwynant.</b></p> <p><b>The LAG members approved a pilot project at a total of £4,950.</b></p>	LIRh
8.3	<p><b><u>Time to Venture</u></b></p> <p>DG presented the application and explained that the project will lead to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A potential source of entrepreneurial individuals who are in full-time employment.</li> <li>• The project aims to allow time for individuals in work to develop ideas without a reduction in income.</li> <li>• It enables staff to spend a fifth of their time developing projects outside their normal work programme for a period of 6 months.</li> </ul> <p>The project will test:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A source of new ideas and entrepreneurship skills through the use of people who are currently in employment.</li> <li>• Demonstrate the value of releasing individuals from part of their daily work in order to develop business ideas.</li> </ul> <p>The plan mimics the concept of "20% time", or "80/20" used by some large companies such as Google and 3M that has led to innovations such as Gmail and the 'Postit Note'. The Business Plan will have to be made public at the end of the project due to issues of state aid. An open call will go out and LAG members will choose 5 persons / businesses and will choose the mentors.</p> <p>Several points were raised by members:</p>	

	<p>From a business perspective in the private sector, the employer would not be happy to release staff to work on a business plan if new business was likely to be competitive.</p> <p>There was discussion about intellectual property rights remaining with AGW and how this can make some people unwilling to apply.</p> <p>There were questions about publicly sharing a business plan at the end of 6 months, which may also prevent people from coming forward.</p> <p><b>A new sub-group to be established specifically for the project - members will be Siân Elen Tomos, Arwel Jones and David Ingham.</b></p> <p><b>The idea was supported the idea on the basis of developing the criteria.</b></p> <p><b><u>Buddug Turner is keen that AGW focusses on the process.</u></b></p> <p><b>LAG members approved an expenditure of £29,000 in principle and basis of developing the criteria. One member abstained.</b></p>	<p>DG/APJ</p> <p>DG</p> <p>DG</p>
8.4	<p><b><u>Dewin Ynni (Energy Wizard)</u></b></p> <p>LIRh explained that there was an application to amend the costs that were originally approved by the LAG for £13,000. Need to approve £2,000 for VAT which was not included in the original application by the consultant co-ordinating and leading the project.</p> <p><b>LAG members approved an additional expenditure of £2,000, taking the total expenditure from £13,000 to £15,000.</b></p>	
<b>11. Final reports</b>		
LIRh explained that the Final Reports now appear on the Arloesi website and a slide was shown to direct people to the specific area of the website where these could be seen.		
<b>Date of next meeting</b>		
	<p><b>Date of next meeting is 4 October, 2017 at Plas Heli, Pwllheli, LL53 5YT</b></p> <p><b>13:00 – 16:30</b></p>	

