



Cofnodion Grwp Gweithredu Lleol

Gwynedd Local Action Group Minutes - LEADER.

20.02.2019

South Caernarfon Creamery, Y Ffôr

Present:

<b>Representation from the Enterprise Sector:</b>	
Ian Nellist (IN)	FSB
Dafydd Watts (DW)	Energy Saving Trust
Gwenan Williams (GW) (Chair)	Bwyty Lleu
Ceri Cunningham (CC)	Antur Stiniog
Alun Wyn Evans (AW)	NFU / FUW
Gwion Llwyd (GLI)	Dioni
<b>Voluntary Sector Representation:</b>	
Sian Tomos (ST)	Gisda Cyf
Arwel Jones (AJ)	Partneriaeth Llyn
Craig ap Iago (CI)	Dyffryn Nantlle 2020
David Ingham (DI)	DIY Industries Ltd.
<b>Public Sector Representation:</b>	
Iolyn Jones (IJ)	One Voice Wales
Einir Young (EY)	Bangor University
Rhodri Owen (RO)	Coleg Glynllifon
<b>Representation from Gwynedd Council:</b>	
<b>Representation from Menter Môn / Arloesi Gwyendd Wledig:</b>	
Zoe Pritchard (ZP)	
Rachel Roberts (RR)	
Eleth Peate (EP)	
Aaron Warren (AW)	
Rhian Hughes (RH)	
Rhys Gwilym (RG)	



Carwyn ap Myrddin (CM)	
Dafydd Gruffydd (DG)	

Point	Details	Action
<b>Local Action Group Meeting</b>		
1.	Gwenan Williams, the new chair of the LAG for 2019, welcomed everyone to the meeting. GW welcomed two new members to the LAG, Iolyn Jones and Geraint Strello, although Geraint was not present.	
2.	Apologies were received from 6 members via RG. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Menna Jones (Antur Waunfawr)</li> <li>• Helen Pye (National Park)</li> <li>• Cllr. Ioan Thomas</li> <li>• Carys Williams (Mantell Gwynedd)</li> <li>• Geraint Strello (BT)</li> <li>• Dylan Griffiths (Gwynedd Council)</li> </ul>	
3.	<b>Introduction to South Arfon Creamery</b> Prior to the commencement of the meeting, Peredur Williams (staff member of South Caernarfon Creamery) gave a presentation on the history of the South Caernarfon Creamery to everyone who attended the meeting and showed a short video highlighting what the company is doing. Everyone at the meeting also tasted some Dragon cheese.	
4.	<b>Declarations of Interest</b> Einir Young completed a Declaration of Interest form for the Gwynedd Treborth Botanical Gardens Pilot Fund application as TBG is part of Bangor University and she is a member of the University's staff. Alun Evans completed a Declaration of Interest form for the Mixed Agriculture application because he owns land within the Dyfi Biosphere.	
5.	<b>Minutes of Meeting 17/10/2018</b> The minutes of the meeting were accepted as a true record. There were no matters arising from the minutes. CC and ST seconded approval.	
6.	<b>An Introduction to Ffordd Cymru</b> Gwawr Price, who works for Visit Wales, gave a presentation on the Ffordd Cymru scheme. Ffordd Cymru is a 10-year plan which intends to put Wales on the map by encouraging people to travel around Wales and find out more about the country. Gwawr explained that they had planned 3 different routes in the plan; <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Cambria Road</li> <li>2. Coast Road</li> <li>3. North Road</li> </ol>	



	<p>Gwawr explained that it is crucial to work with other businesses and departments on this scheme, so that they benefit from it. There is an emphasis on visitors to follow the route, but also to go off-route sometimes to find villages, mountains and other attractions. Gwawr explained that similar schemes already exist in countries such as Scotland, Ireland and Norway.</p> <p>Members thought that this was a good scheme and that AGW could pilot a project linked to Ffordd Cymru. DG reminded members that adding value to the Coastal Path is one of the Specific Aims of the Local Development Strategy.</p> <p>IN raised concerns about how they would work with Gwynedd Council as there had been recent cuts in the council which mean that some sections of the road may be affected e.g. closure of Barmouth's footbridge. GP explained that they were working closely with the Council.</p> <p>CM explained that he had had initial talks with LEADER Officers from other counties that are part of Ffordd Cymru. Members were keen for CM and the other officers to carry on with this communication.</p> <p>DW asked if Electric Car Points could be included on the route. GP agreed that this is definitely something that can be looked into.</p>	
7.	<p><b>Finance Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ZP provided a Finance update. She reminded the LAG that £2.5 million had been allocated to the LEADER scheme and needs to be spent by 2021. ZP explained that the LAG has been allocated <b>£1,129,590.21</b> to date, which means we are half way through the funding.</li> </ul> <p>If the LAG approves all the projects today (the total AGW contribution of <b>£153,064.14</b>), it would leave <b>£1,095,986.86</b> to be allocated and spent before December 2021.</p> <p>It was explained that there was an underspend on 4 projects:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <u>Twizys</u> - This project has not gone ahead. It has been adapted to an Community Electric Cars project. Potential funds to be re-allocated: <b>£55,601.50</b></li> <li>2. <u>Community Open Call</u> - Project underspend. Potential funds to be re-allocated: <b>£3,387.47</b></li> <li>3. <u>VR Dementia</u>- Lack of Procurement evidence. Potential funds to be re-allocated: <b>£11,971.92</b></li> <li>4. <u>Carneddau Circuit</u> - This project has not gone ahead. Potential funds to be re-allocated: <b>£2,000.00</b></li> </ol> <p>Total to be re-allocated: <b>£72,960.89</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gwynedd Pilot Fund</li> </ul> <p>ZP explained that Round 4 of the new fund had just been and that 9 applications were received. The Assessment Panel decided to approve 5 of these 9 applications (total AGW contribution of £36,944).</p>	



<p>At present, there is £22,236.06 left in the fund which means there is not enough money to fund the 5 applications from Round 4. ZP asked the LAG if they were happy to move £14,707.94 from the funding pot to the fund in order to approve the applications.</p> <p><b>Members approved the 5 applications and approved £14,707.94 of additional funding.</b></p> <p>ZP explained that <b>£77,763.94</b> had been allocated to date, but only <b>£39,868.83</b> has been spent. ZP suggested giving the fund a small break so that we can go back to projects from the previous rounds to encourage them to spend the money that has been allocated, as many of them are very slow in spending their funds.</p> <p><b>Members were supportive of this.</b></p> <p>ZP took this opportunity to talk about the help the piloting fund has made to Tafarn Yr Heliwr, Nefyn. This initiative received funding from the fund in the first round to commission a Business Plan and now the initiative has managed to buy the building to turn it into a community pub. Meithrinfa Maesywaun has also been successful in getting a capital grant towards a building in the area after they received funding from the piloting fund to commission a business plan.</p> <p><b>AGW Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ZP explained that AGW was going to use the next few months between this meeting and the next one in May as a reflective period. There are 3 main reasons why it was decided to do this:       <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. At the end of March we are due to receive an Evaluation report from Wavehill. This will be a good opportunity to take a step back and look at what has already been achieved and how we can improve the way we operate.</li> <li>2. To look back over old projects to see what has been learned from them and how we share this with the public. It is a good opportunity to market our work by sharing toolkits, case studies, etc.</li> <li>3. The Welsh Government has given AGW the opportunity to extend the operating time to 2023. Zoe explained that AGW wanted to try to extend the money as far as possible, so there is no pressure to spend at the moment.</li> </ol> </li> </ul> <p>DG explained that officers often did not have time to learn and evaluate their projects as they were working on new projects, one after another. CC agreed that there are many things that we can learn from the last 2-3 years of implementing the LEADER scheme in Gwynedd. ZP ensured the LAG that AGW still has live projects that will be</p>	
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	<p>coordinated during this respite period. She also explained that we intend to hold a 'Digital' event in May to share what has been learned from digital projects with businesses, stakeholders and the public. There are also plans to try to share information with other LEADER groups in Wales. AE said that NSA was holding events in Glynllifon in the coming months and perhaps AGW could have a stand. EY added that Gwynedd Business Week is being held in May, which is a great opportunity for AGW to promote and attend events.</p> <p>AJ suggested that it would be a good idea to have a document explaining all the things AGW has piloted and what can be achieved from this as a result.</p> <p><b>Members agreed to the reflective period, and they understand that new projects will not be introduced in the next LAG in May 2019.</b></p>	
8.	<p><b><u>Current Projects Update</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <p><b>• Wool Research</b></p> <p>CM gave an update on this research. He explained that it was an opportunity to look at the potential to add value to Welsh wool and whether there is a need for a scouring mill in Gwynedd. The aim of this research is to look for opportunities in Gwynedd to sell wool as a Welsh Wool product and establish whether there is a demand for Welsh Wool as a resource for producers, retailers and visitors / customers.</p> <p>CM explained that an event / workshop had been held recently to discuss the idea with experts, producers, the public etc. Almost 30 people attended the event, which shows that there is a group of interest that sees value and potential in the resource.</p> <p>RO agreed that there was an opportunity here, as farmers do not usually make a profit out of wool. DI agreed that this was research that needs to be done into the field.</p> <p>CM explained that the consultant hopes to finish the report by the end of February.</p> </li> <li> <p><b>• Local Products Vending Machine</b></p> <p>RR explained that this project had had a break due to problems with the choice of an appropriate machine but that it has restarted this year. An Open Call was made to find a suitable location for the vending machine and a large number of businesses and groups showed an interest in piloting the machine on their site. RR explained that the location chosen is Nant y Big Camp in Cilan because it is a location that attracts many summer visitors and there is no shop within walking distance to the site. RR has been in contact with 7 local food producers about selling their products in the grocery machine e.g. Oinc OinK, Llaethdy Llŷn. RR</p> </li> </ul>	



explained that all items will have a 20% mark-up and this extra money will be given to the owner of the Nant y Big Camp for his work in keeping, maintaining and monitoring the machine.

RR said that LEADER from other counties has shown an interest in this idea, maybe this is an opportunity to create an event to share?

AJ asked if it is possible to link this project with the Ffordd Cymru scheme.

- **Austria**

RH gave members an update of the Gwynedd and Anglesey LEADER visit to Austria. RH explained that the purpose of the visit was to discuss ideas for a collaborative project between the two countries. There are 6 LEADER regions in Austria, and the Glossglockner region has received €3 million in funding to spend on projects. RH explained that the type of projects they fund are marketing businesses, bike trails, slow food etc. Austria faces the same kind of challenges as Gwynedd and Anglesey, i.e. the loss of young people from the area, and empty villages with a number of second homes. This means that there is an opportunity to work together to solve the same types of problems in two different countries.

It was confirmed that the AGW team will continue with talks with the LEADER group in Austria to develop a collaborative project.



9.	<b>Applications for approval</b>	
9.1	<p><b>1. AGW.091- Slow Holidays</b></p> <p>CM gave a presentation on this project. The intention of this application is to see if Pen Llŷn can be marketed as a location for 'Slow Holidays' which contrasts with the recent trend of North Wales as an Adventure Holiday venue. CM explained that he had been meeting with a group of business people and people working in the tourism sector in Pen Llŷn who are eager to see the area marketed as a quiet, relaxing location where people can escape from busy every day life. CM stated that it was possible to include the National Park in this project by looking into the area's Dark Sky status. The project will offer training to the group so that they take ownership of it in the long run, for example, short video creation training with an expert. CM explained that the AONB was keen to work with the group and we could develop a further project with them. This is a scheme that could be emulated in other areas similar to Llŷn.</p> <p>EY wanted to know how the group would be monitored to ensure that they took ownership of the project.</p> <p>Members were supportive of the application.</p> <p><b>LAG members approved the pilot project totalling £4,750.</b></p>	
9.2	<p><b>2. AGW.093- Gwynedd Data</b></p> <p>RR gave a presentation on this application. RR explained that Gwynedd Council is currently installing community wi-fi in 10 communities in Gwynedd, in addition to the communities where the technology has already been installed e.g. Caernarfon, Aberdaron. RR also reminded members that AGW had also placed a commission to install the technology in communities around the base of Snowdon.</p> <p>The aim of this project is to add value to the projects that are already being carried out by GC. The intention is to run a pilot project that shows how the data collected from the public wi-fi can be used by the communities to analyse and utilise it to their advantage. RR explained that training will be provided to the community in order to use the data, create custom-based content and the use of appropriate software. The data could show how many people have visited the town / village, how long they stayed there etc?</p> <p>AJ suggested that we have a chat with some of the communities that have already installed this type of technology. He noted that</p>	

	<p>many of them did not have the time / skills to analyse the data. DG explained that communities such as Aberaeron, which are a good example of a community that uses the data, send the data to an expert to be analysed and then it is sent back to them.</p> <p><b>LAG members approved the pilot project totalling £12,200.</b></p>	
9.3	<p><b>3. AGW.089 - Community Electric Cars</b></p> <p>CM gave a presentation on this application and explained that it derives from the previously approved project, the Twizys project. This scheme has been developed very differently from the Twizys project, and is therefore being presented to LAG members as a completely new project.</p> <p>The aim of this project is to pilot an community electric car scheme in Gwynedd by locating two electric cars in communities to serve the residents of the area. There are a number of people in Gwynedd living in rural areas who are isolated, so this project would benefit this group of people by helping with matters such as doctor’s appointments, food shopping etc. CM explained that having a dedicated volunteer group was crucial to the plan because without them the project could not be implemented. CM explained that the project was also an opportunity for people to pilot electric cars as they are growing in popularity. It will also be a way of getting press coverage to highlight the use of electric cars and the positive impact of community cars.</p> <p>DG agreed that this scheme had a better purpose than the previous Twizys scheme and that a group of good volunteers was needed. Concerns were raised about the need to have a dedicated volunteer group, and CM confirmed that voluntary groups will have to apply to be part of the project.</p> <p><b>LAG members approved the pilot project totalling £58,289.60.</b></p>	
9.4	<p><b>4. AGW.092- North Wales Energy</b></p> <p>RR gave a presentation on the project. The ultimate aim of this project is to supply local community energy to local businesses. RR explained that the project will pilot a mechanism similar to a comparative website where Cyd Ynni area businesses will be able to benefit from a local hydropower tariff that offers lower prices for producers. RR added that the brief had to be issued for procurement, but the Ecotricity company would be able to create the platform.</p> <p>DW raised concerns that having a fixed tariff for 10 years was too optimistic and that it would have to be more realistic, but otherwise he was supportive of the application. He added that the</p>	

	<p>big companies already got good prices for energy, so this project will target small businesses.</p> <p>AJ said this is a project that will be able to add to the image of local businesses because they are using local green energy.</p> <p>DI raised concerns that this is a project that will only bring benefit to Cyd Ynni and not the wider community.</p> <p>RO stated that companies such as Aber Falls could get more for their products because they use local energy.</p> <p>AJ said that this is an innovative application that has not happened in other areas. CC agreed and added that it was healthy to have discussions about renewable energy.</p> <p>DG suggested that a special group be formed to discuss concerns raised by LAG members when discussing the application.</p> <p><b>LAG members approved the application for the full amount of £34,970 with the following conditions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>AGW to receive an intense update from Cyd Ynni on the current situation of the other pilot projects that exist through AGW support.</b></li> <li>• <b>A selection of LAG members to meet with Cyd Ynni to discuss this application further before the project starts.</b></li> </ul>	
9.5	<p><b><u>5. AGW.090- Cheese Co-op</u></b></p> <p>CM gave a presentation on this application. The aim of the application is to investigate how many people in Gwynedd produce their own cheese and whether there is a demand for specialist equipment to enable these producers to produce cheese on a larger scale. It will enable farmers to experiment with creating cheese but also give those who produce cheese an opportunity to grow their business. CM explained that Glynllifon had recently installed food production units on their site so it is possible to work with them.</p> <p>EY suggested that the consultant mentions that the cheese labelling should be bilingual and clearly demonstrate that the cheese had been produced in Wales.</p> <p>CI raised concerns that the people who make cheese would not be happy that public money was used to produce cheese. CM explained that this application is research that will be used to help people who are already thinking about starting to produce cheese and existing cheese-makers. The research will be shared with the public, and AGW staff will seek to share the information directly with any existing cheese producers in Gwynedd.</p> <p><b>LAG members approved the pilot project totalling £4,950.</b></p>	

9.6	<p><b><u>6. AGW.088- Mixed Farming: Co-operative Project with Powys and Ceredigion</u></b></p> <p>CM gave a brief explanation of the application before welcoming Chris Higgins (CH) and Andy Rowlands (AR) from Ecodyfi to explain the application in detail. The background of the project was clearly explained to the LAG and the overall aim of this application is to encourage a move towards sustainable mixed agriculture and a local food economy. They will do this by collecting data showing the use of the agricultural land and woodland of the Dyfi area. They will collect historical, contemporary and complementary data and put them all into one system to create an information portal that will be available to farmers, stakeholders and the public. Chris said they had meetings with a number of groups to prove evidence of need e.g. Farmers Union Wales, Farming Connect, LEAF. The project seeks to achieve an appreciation of wider crop opportunities and establish a network of farmers to trial this.</p> <p>DG explained that collaborative projects were difficult to implement as we were not in full control of the project.</p> <p>CI said that he was supportive of the application, but raised concerns about the diversification of farmers as he had previously worked with them and had struggled because of problems such as cost.</p> <p>IJ questioned whether the data is really going to motivate the farmers to change the way they operate.</p> <p>AR explained that there were discussions regarding the data that will encourage the farmers to consider changes.</p> <p>RO raised concerns that it was a big risk for farmers to change their business. Mixed farming requires different skills, that is why most farmers today specialise in one type of farming.</p> <p>AJ said he was working on a similar project and was supportive of the project.</p> <p>EY agreed that the data needs to be prepared now, and although it may not be useful at present, it will be in the future.</p> <p>AE noted that the area is an SSSI and this can be a problem.</p> <p>ZP asked how farmers who are not in the Dyfi Biosphere area would be able to benefit from the data.</p> <p>AR explained that these farmers will be able to access the data and be part of the discussion. The principles apply to some of them.</p> <p>DG asked if the project objective could be tested for a smaller cost.</p> <p>AR explained that the cost of the project was dependent on the</p>	
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	<p>geography.</p> <p>CI said the project was a community one because of local people who have collected the data to help local farmers.</p> <p>DG reminded members that this is a collaborative project and if Gwynedd withdraws, there will be a risk that it does not follow the LEADER ethos and its important collaborative and networking features with other LEADER areas.</p> <p>AJ suggested that we improve our communication with Powys and Ceredigion to get better co-operation.</p> <p>DI said he was supportive of the application because he believed that more food should be produced locally. Without this data it is difficult for future generations to know how to approach mixed farming.</p> <p>IN agreed that the data needed to be collected, especially with Brexit looming. The data will be able to give us tips on how to become more sustainable.</p> <p>AR and CH were asked to leave the room in order to hold a ballot.</p> <p>Results of the vote:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9 in favour</li> <li>• 4 against</li> </ul> <p><b>As there was a majority in favour, the project is approved for a total of £23,196.60.</b></p>	
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**Next Date**

10.	ZP confirmed the next LAG date which is the 1st May 2019, Venue to be confirmed.	
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