



Cofnodion Grwp Gweithredu Lleol

Minutes of Gwynedd Local Action Group - LEADER

04.03.20

Pant Du

Present:

Representatives from the Enterprise Sector:		
Alun Evans	(AE)	NFU / FUW
Gwenan Williams	(GW)	Private Sector
Gwion Llwyd	(GLI)	Dioni
Representatives from the Private Sector:		
Sian Tomos	(ST)	GISDA
OG Thomas	(OG)	Voluntary
Geraint Strello	(GS)	BT / Technology
Arwel Jones	(AJ)	Llŷn Partnership
Craig ab Iago	(CI)	Dyffryn Nantlle 2020
David Ingham	(DI)	D.I.Y. Industries Ltd
Representatives from the Public Sector		
Angela Jones	(AnJ)	Snowdownia National Park:
Iolyn Jones	(IJ)	One Voice Wales
Rhodri Owen	(RO)	Grŵp Llandrillo Menai
Representatives from Menter Môn/ Arloesi Gwynedd Wledig:		
Aaron Warren	(AW)	
Rhian Hughes	(RH)	
Rhys Gwilym	(RG)	
Elin Parry	(EP)	
Dafydd Gruffydd	(DG)	
Sioned Morgan Thomas	(SMT)	
Dyfan Searell	(DS)	
Anwen Davies	(AD)	Gwynedd Council
Susan Yapp	(SY)	Wales Rural Network





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Point	Details	Action
Meeting of the Local Action Group		
1.	Rhodri Owen, chair of this Local Action Group, welcomed everyone to the meeting.	
2.	<p>Eight members apologised through EP.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Einir Young (Bangor University) • Ian Nellist (FSB) • Ceri Cunnington (Antur Stiniog) • Dafydd Watts (Ymddiriedolaeth Arbed Ynni) • Cllr. Gareth Thomas • Alex Saul (Greenacres) • Menna Jones (Antur Waunfawr) • Carys Williams (Mantell Gwynedd) 	
3.	<p><u>Declarations of Interest.</u></p> <p>RO declared an interest in the Sylfaen and Native Trees Research application as a representative of the Llandrillo Menai Group, a partner in these two projects.</p>	
4.	<p><u>Minutes of the Meeting 16/10/2019</u></p> <p><u>Minutes of the meeting were received as correct.</u></p> <p>No matters arising from the minutes</p>	
5.	<p><u>AGW Staff Update</u></p> <p>DG explained that Zoe had left her post with Menter Môn at the end of January. Following this, a new LEADER Gwynedd manager, Dyfan, will be starting on 10 March and will be involved 100% of his time with Gwynedd projects. He explained that Sioned's role within Menter Môn had changed and that she will be contributing more in Gwynedd. Two other new members of staff had started since the last LAG meeting, Elin as Gwynedd's Administrative Officer and Meilir as Môn and Gwynedd's Digital Officer. Meilir was absent today because of paternity.</p> <p><u>Financial Update</u></p> <p>DG presented an update to the members on AGW's finances. Originally, AGW had £2.5 million to spend on schemes. He explained that, to date, about half the money had been earmarked for LEADER Gwynedd (£1.3 million) and about 38% had been spent (£950). Therefore, £1.5 million must be spent before the scheme ends. To achieve this, 20k more a</p>	





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	<p>month must be spent, giving a monthly total of £43k. £111k extra will be approved today if every application is successful.</p> <p>SMT explained that the money must be spent by the end of 2022 for the officers to be able to spend the last 6 months on closing projects and collecting outputs, provided the whole programme will to be extended to the middle of the year 2023.</p> <p>DG explained that £24,000 had been released since the last LAG meeting. IJ was keen to know where the released money had come from. SMT explained that £19,000 had come from a joint project with Anglesey, Creu Gofod, and that the rest had come in small sums from a variety of projects.</p> <p>DG raised his concerns about the amount of underspend. The aim is to spend as much money as possible, in case the money is taken back by the government. To date nothing has happened as a result of the underspend but as future sources of finance are unsure because of Brexit, it is better to be prepared. CI explained he was worried because of the Brexit situation. DG explained that the LEADER agreement is with Welsh Government and not the European Union so if there is a 'no deal' Brexit and LEADER money is lost, the government is supposed to fund it.</p>	
<p>6.</p>	<p><u>Strategic Update / Wavehill Appraisal – Endaf Griffiths</u></p> <p>Endaf Griffith from Wavehill company attended the meeting to share Wavehill’s appraisal suggestions on Gwynedd’s LEADER programme. He explained that the appraisal was a positive one, that Gwynedd had wide and very effective projects and that Gwynedd’s plan was more innovative than others. It is possible to use a solid foundation such as this to take the plan to the next level. He also explained that Gwynedd’s LAG group’s appraisal was good but that it is possible for the members to promote the work of Gwynedd LEADER more.</p> <p>Moving on, he explained the importance of concentrating on the plan as a whole, not just on the projects. There is no point piloting if there is not an appraisal at the end to share what has been learnt. The standard of project appraisals is very important. EG explained how it is to show how AGW projects correspond with LDS priorities. Because of Brexit, and other factors, EG explained that, if they are going to, now is the time to change Gwynedd’s LEADER strategy, and make sure that the group has a clear focus and priorities.</p> <p>EG explained that Gwynedd LAG operates well on the whole but when moving on that it is important that people understand what the LAG</p>	<p>- Make a suggestion to Gwynedd LAG members explaining the exact role requirements of a LAG member.</p>





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	<p>members role is and realise the importance of the group in the community. There is a need also to interact more whilst moving on. It is also important to think how to be innovative in general, not only when thinking of ideas for new projects. If only projects are concentrated on, this is a loss to the LEADER method.</p> <p>EG explained that by moving on it is important for LAG members to take part in the animating process – go out to the community and discuss projects, raise awareness of the LEADER programme.</p> <p>EG explained that thinking of new ways should be more innovative and that bodies such as NESTA offer training on how to be more innovative. EG explained that every LEADER project did not have to be completely new every time – it is possible to re-run the same project with a few twists.</p> <p>GS liked the idea of adding to projects that already exist and that it would be an idea to get communities to work together on this. ST is worried about the communities that don't collaborate. GL asked if there were enough English projects.</p> <p>RO mentioned that AGW's web presence is good, should LAG members create a podcast to raise awareness about LAG work and the LEADER programme?</p> <p>After EG's observations about LAG members' roles, CI said he and others on the LAG weren't too sure now what exactly their work should be as members of LAG.</p>	
<p>7.</p>	<p><u>Present a New Action Model for Gwynedd LEADER</u></p> <p>DG explained that up to now projects were not grouped together for each officer and that projects are distributed depending on officers' work load at the time. He also explained that he felt that AGW missed opportunities and was inflexible as there are 3 months between each LAG meeting and that sub-groups, at present, don't operate to their full potential. The reasoning behind the new model is re-examine successful projects that have been run in the past and extend them until the end of the LEADER programme e.g. Time to Venture, Ffiws and Crowd Funding. In the wake of this, DG went on to explain his idea for a new way of implementing Gwynedd LEADER. The three new (strategic programme) groups will be presented to take the place of the present sub-groups and one AGW officer will be appointed to each group:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Venture Support – develop venture, produce, services 2. Prosperous Places – emphasis on towns and villages 3. Countryside Resilience – respond to climate change, economic changes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Approve £350,000 for each theme. - Take the LAG observations into account and add value to the new way planned for operating after obtaining approval. There is still work to do on the plans





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	<p>The idea is to create contact between different activities. Each group managing schemes (or strategic programmes) will also have a variety of LAG members and different specialists as well as financial allocation assigned to each one (around £350,000 each). Operating in smaller groups, the LAG members will have a better opportunity of presenting inputs.</p> <p>DG wants to increase capacity. Community groups that want to collaborate on projects will receive training (possibly through NESTA) to understand properly what LEADER is and how it operates. It should be emphasised that LEADER is an innovative scheme and not a grant. The vision of the new method of operating is that it can offer a wider package to Gwynedd residents who want to benefit from LEADER projects, the aim being to be less constrictive than the present method. DG explained the need for outside input when appraising projects so as to free up more time for AGW officers and to get an outside opinion to measure success. As such, the hope is for more consistent appraising. RO agrees that the new model being offered gives LAG members the opportunity to concentrate on projects in more detail. OGT asked whether LAG meetings will still be held about every three months and DG confirmed this, but also suggested it could be possible to discuss by e-mail and even teleconferencing. The hope is to tighten the relationship between AGW staff and LAG members. The argument is that more lively relationships tend to be in smaller groups and by regular contact it is possible to move projects on faster. GS agreed that the new groups must meet more often.</p> <p>DG emphasised that the LAG itself will still operate as a full group but hopefully the group will be less frustrated moving on. The aim is to separate LAG members into three new groups but there is nothing to stop them from frequenting meetings of other groups if they have an interest. AJ agreed this is already happening in the present sub-groups. ST is supportive of the new method but asks whether it is possible to appraise in 9 – 12 months? To see if the new method makes a difference and gives benefit. ST is concerned that the difficult work of change will be in moving the emphasis from the full LAG meeting to the smaller group meetings because traditionally fewer members frequent the sub-group meetings. DS explained that discussions should be held within a few weeks to verify the new method of operating, including allocating the LAG members to the new strategic programmes.</p> <p>CI is supportive of the new method and understands the need for flexibility, but how will this be realized? What will be the LAG members' new role? Will each group have its own long term aim? DG explained that this will all be discussed in the new groups after the LAG (hopefully) has approved the new method. He explained the whole LAG will agree on a</p>	<p>before they are implemented.</p> <p>- Look again at the LAG membership to see who has been frequenting meetings and implementing LEADER plans and who is interested in moving on to the new method.</p>
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	<p>general allocation but the smaller groups will have a more operational role. The hope is that the group will move away from smaller applications and concentrate on larger projects. SMT explained that this method will give AGW staff the opportunity to decide into which group the applications will be divided and operated by.</p> <p>AE inquired what would happen if a project ran over the three themes. DI was concerned that there were many things to do before moving on to the new method e.g. project appraisals and trialling successful projects in other parts of Gwynedd. DI also mentioned that to animate successfully, it would be an idea to give more guidance to communities on how to administer projects themselves, as well as asking for feedback from communities that have benefited from Gwynedd LEADER in the past.</p> <p>AJ enquired what the next step would be when starting to implement the new method.</p>	
8	<p><u>Project Amendment Form</u></p> <p>1. Ffiws</p> <p>RG explained that 80 people had registered so far for general familiarising sessions at Ffiws. Amongst this 80 are local business owners e.g. Caffi Kiki, Glosters, Taldraeth and 'Direct Bees'. Many successful events have taken place there such as jewellery creating and 3 technologists are holding open sessions throughout the week helping individuals to develop ideas. So far, the project has attracted much attention in the press in newspapers and on the radio. RG explained that he was keen to anxious for the project in Porthmadog to continue for six months more than agreed at the beginning of the project, mainly because of the project's success in its present location. Also, a person will need to be employed part time to co-ordinate the project in order to free up the project officer's time for other work. In the wake of this, RG asked for an additional £33,500 towards the project.</p> <p>The LAG members approved the additional sum of £33,500 for the project.</p> <p>2. Community Electric Cars</p> <p>RG explained that the two cars were very popular in their areas, with Carwyn in Abergynolwyn having more community use and Carwen in Bethesda having more use from Partneriaeth Ogwen itself and that work is being done to encourage more community use of the car in Bethesda. RG asked for an additional £12,000 toward to fund the project until November. This is mainly to get</p>	





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	<p>advisors to help with the project until then, which means that they will have to go through the open call process once again. The advisors have the specialisms and the time which the project officer does not.</p> <p>The LAG members approved the additional sum of £12,000 for the project.</p> <p>3. Gwynedd Data RH explained that a local wi-fi had been established now in 8 towns and villages in Gwynedd as part of the Menter Môn project and the data is beginning to be collected as part of the Gwynedd Data project. The communities will receive this data in the form of a newsletter each quarter with the hope it will be of benefit to the community and local businesses. RH explained that the costs in the original application included training for the communities to create newsletters, installing the wi-fi in the communities and getting someone to analyse the data. It was underlined in the application that no help could be offered until the wi-fi is installed in the communities and this has only just happened. VAT needs to be added to the original application.</p> <p>The LAG members approved the additional sum of £2,440 for the project.</p> <p>4. Connected Communities RH explained that 5 communities have had the opportunity to have broadband in their homes. The project has be a challenging one for RH and the consultants working on the project as they found it difficult to find people to lead in the communities. 25 homes have to come together in each community in order to create a tender with the consultants. Because the project is a challenging one, additional money is needed to be able to pay for more consultant time. RH is asking for an additional £7,200 to pay for more consultant days. The consultants have agreed a lower price of £300 a day instead of £400.</p> <p>The LAG members approved the additional sum of £7,200 for the project.</p>	
9.	Applications for approval	
	<i>The following applications were discussed in detail during the sub group's meeting and so the descriptions presented in this LAG meeting are briefer than usual. Some applications have a sentence from the</i>	



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9.1	<p><i>original application to remind you of the project's contents, written in red.</i></p> <p><u>'Foundation' – Co-operative</u></p> <p>The challenge now is to increase the spend by anchoring institutions in the basic economy of Anglesey and Arfon. The project will pilot a fit for purpose procurement framework and provide a bespoke package of business support in order to increase the contact with the local building sector.</p> <p>DG explained that this is a scheme which encourages small building companies to work with large bodies in Anglesey and Gwynedd. The project will bring companies together to collaborate on large projects. Look for ways of presenting information on commercial opportunities. SMT explained that the costs reflect the split between Gwynedd and Anglesey. Anglesey contributes £44,500 and Gwynedd contributes £14,800. GS is concerned that there is no mention of local suppliers in the application. JJ is keen to share the project's conclusions with other parts of Gwynedd.</p>	- Add local suppliers e.g. C L Jones, Travis Perkins, Huws Gray to the application.
9.2	<p>The LAG members approved a total of £14,800 for joint working project.</p> <p><u>Native Trees – Co-operative</u></p> <p>Find an answer to the scarcity of native tree species available to meet the needs of significant infrastructure developments e.g. new roads, housing developments etc.</p> <p>DG explained that county councils had announced that there is a lack of native trees in the area and this project will try and solve the problem. There is a shortage of opportunities for buying native trees at present. Try to collect evidence in order to make a large application for more support in the future. Research mainly.</p>	
9.3	<p>The LAG members approved a total of £5,000 for the joint working project.</p> <p><u>Egin Gegin</u></p> <p>DG explained that Egin Gegin is a mobile kitchen on Ysgol Botwnnog land and is not in use at present. The basis of the project is to move the kitchen from Ysgol Botwnnog to Congl Meinciau land. EG explained that resources and administrative support have been priced in the application.</p>	





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	<p>Similar to Ffiws with regards innovation but different equipment available. About half the budget in the application is for moving the resource before it begins to deteriorate where it is at present. The aim is to bring people in to develop their own produce. There are food companies developing in Congl Meinciau at present so the resource will get plenty of use there.</p> <p>The LAG members approved a total of £25,500 for the project.</p>	
9.4	<p><u>Blaenau Ffestiniog Questionnaire</u></p> <p>Dafydd explained that this application was for a questionnaire to be held assessing the effect of Y Dref Werdd work in the Blaenau Ffestiniog area. Try to find new schemes for Y Dref Werdd to implement, taking the opinion of the community into consideration. Research. £5,000 budget confirmed by Gwynedd Council. AD explained that this project corresponds with the basic economy Bro Ffestiniog project. RH explained that more detailed cost are available through Ceri Cunningham.</p> <p>The LAG members approved a total of £5,000 for the project.</p>	
9.5	<p><u>Plastic Free Gwynedd</u></p> <p>AJ explained that Gwynedd Council is working on plastic free projects and that this AGW project is an opportunity to raise awareness of that, as well as raising awareness of the present waste problem. Look for the best ways of dealing with problems across the county. The first implementation step for this project will be to conduct raising awareness sessions and only after that will there be an open call to communities to take part in the solving (hopefully a larger project will follow). DG explained that the project presents an opportunity of holding a conversation with communities before the open call, so that the communities' ideas can be developed into ones with better quality and more informed. The communities need to collaborate to solve the problem. At present there are a lot of small projects across Gwynedd being co-ordinated to solve the plastic problem. The hope is that one big project like this will be more effective. SG suggested that schools should to be part of the project. AJ stressed that the scheme's goal is more innovative than just school children collecting rubbish in the community.</p> <p>The LAG members approved a total of £5,600 for the project.</p>	





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Any other matters

ST asked if there is a way to present new applications even though the group’s method of working is likely to change. DG said that applications are still being received but it would be better to begin discussions with AGW officers as soon as possible in the process. ST asked if it would be possible to hold some sort of workshop to convey Welsh Government’s work and their mind-set so as to get more communities to work jointly. EG explained that this is LAG’s work, providing information to the communities and promoting Gwynedd LEADER. AJ suggested it would be worthwhile to go back to the groups who had received support from Gwynedd LEADER to ask them to share the projects’ successes with us. Would it be an idea to arrange something like a workshop or conference in order to co-ordinate this? It would be an opportunity to bring everyone together for a discussion. DG agreed. EG explained that the response of communities for providing feedback could be low, it depended on how much money the community had received. If the sum of money was large, the group would usually be more likely to give feedback.

Next Date

10. Date of the next LAG meeting: 13 May 2020. Location to be confirmed.

