

SKYE LAP MEETING: 21 JANUARY 2016, TIGH NA SGIRE, PORTREE, 4:00 – 6:30 PM

PRESENT:

Public Members –Jennifer Macpherson (HIE), Calum Macleod (Broadford & Strath Community Council), Sarah McGrory (SNH/SV Substitute), Willie MacKinnon (THC – advisory/non-voting)

Private/Community Members –Roger Liley (PACT), Lachie MacDonald (L&SHA), Donald MacDonald (Staffin Community Trust), Nick Duffill (Minginish Community Trust), Beth Kennedy (Youth rep), Aonghas Mehan (Youth rep), Meg Gillies (SLCVO)

Member Apologies:

Stephen Varwell (SNH), Annie Davidson (HLH), Roddy Murray (Sleat CC), John Gordon (THC)

In Attendance:

Liz Whiteford (Highland LEADER Development Officer)

In Attendance for Equalities Training Only:

Caroline Gould (Equalities Reference Group/ERG), Ron Johnstone (Equalities Reference Group/ERG)

WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS:

Meg Gillies confirmed her acceptance of her nomination as chairperson and welcomed everyone including the ERG members, who were attending the part of the meeting relating to the Equalities training, and Sarah McGrory, who was attending in Stephen Varwell's absence

EQUALITIES TRAINING:

LW delivered the Equalities training presentation which included handouts - any follow up questions to be forwarded to Rosemary MacKinnon (Highland Council's Principle Policy Officer – Equalities) the author of the equalities training presentation.

NOTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

Previously circulated and accepted as an accurate record

MATTERS ARISING/DO UPDATE:

- The Skye LAAP approved by the Highland LAG on 2.12.15 (paper copies distributed to members at 21.1.16 LAP meeting) – to avoid any confusion, members asked to destroy any earlier versions still in existence and not to circulate the latest approved version until formal approval letter and final LEADER guidance received just in case any further amendments are necessary
- It is hoped that the final LEADER guidance will be available from Scottish Government by end February/early March
- Highland Council (Accountable Body) has now signed the Service Level Agreement (SLA) subject to some conditions. This should allow the Scottish Rural Network, which receives all LEADER Expressions of Interest (EOIs), to start to officially pass on those relevant to Highland.
- Skye LEADER budget of £313,745 is still an indicative allocation
- LAP members reminded of the opportunity to appoint a substitute from their organisation/sector to attend LAP meetings when they cannot attend
- Any outstanding Register of Interest forms to be completed and emailed to LW before the end of January

●Scottish LEADER conference to take place in Aviemore on 10th, 11th, 12th March (**PLEASE NOTE AMENDED DATES**) – LAPs have been invited to nominate a delegate to attend and Skye LAP members agreed that their LAP chair or vice-chair should attend. Agenda not yet available but, if not attending the full conference, then Friday 11th might be the most appropriate full day to attend. MG will attend if she can.

●Enquiries/EOI received since last meeting:

-**NOV 2015 EOI** – Portree and Braes Community Trust - 2 year Local Development Officer Project with a LEADER request for 100% of project costs of £70K to carry out full business planning and needs assessment with the information gathered leading to the development of sustainable projects. As it stands, this EOI exceeds the maximum 50% LEADER grant intervention rate set by the Skye LAP.

-**NOV 2015 early enquiry:** Portree Free Church – New Community Church - no project detail/costs provided /feasibility study being undertaken – general enquiry about LEADER funding

-**JAN 2016 early enquiry** – Crossroads Care Skye & Lochalsh – employment of a fixed term project officer to advise and assist local groups to set up a new system of extended community care. Project costs c£50,000. LEADER grant request c £20,000 to be split between Skye and WRSL LAP budgets. Match funding in place.

OPERATING GUIDELINES/CODE OF CONDUCT TRAINING:

LW delivered the Operating Guidelines and Code of Conduct training

Whilst general Highland LEADER Programme information which is not considered confidential can be shared by LAP members with the wider public, it was unanimously agreed by Skye LAP members to keep discussions about LEADER applications (including Expressions of Interest, pre-applications and full applications) between members and to leave notification of any LEADER application decisions taken by the Skye LAP (whether relating to successful, deferred or rejected EOIs, pre-applications and full applications) to Highland Council (Accountable Body) who would include any grant award conditions, reasons for deferral or rejection, etc’.

Members asked to particularly note the sections of the operating guidelines (included as an appendix to the Skye LAAP) relating to meetings and quorums and to consider registering a substitute especially if they feel that they are likely to miss more than one LAP meeting a year.

AOCB:

LAP members remain concerned about the ability of community groups to cashflow projects without upfront grant payments and/or continuing access to the interest free THC Loan Service which was critical to the successful delivery of so many community projects in the last LEADER programme

FUTURE SKYE LAP MEETING DATES – PLEASE ADD TO YOUR DIARY:

Thursday 26 May 2016 – 4-6pm

Wednesday 24 August 2016 – 4-6pm

Wednesday 23 November 2016 – 4-6pm

Wednesday 15 February 2017 4-6pm

If additional meetings are required these will be notified separately.

Members identified Tigh na Sgìre, the HIE boardroom, and the SLCVO meeting room in Portree as convenient LAP meeting venue options.