

**HIGHLAND LEADER 2014 – 2020 PROGRAMME
WESTER ROSS, STRATHPEFFER AND LOCHALSH (WRSL) LAP MEETING
10:30AM – 12:30PM, 24 MAY 2016, ACHNASHEEN HALL**

Public Voting Members Present: Lindsay Simpson, Mary Gibson, Roddie MacKenzie

Private/Community Voting Members Present: Fran Cree, Tom Forrest, Kristine Mackenzie, Amy MacDonald, Norma Ross, Clara Hickey; Evie Strange, Siobhan Osborne, Carla Lees

Advisory/Non-Voting Members Present: Robbie Bain

In Attendance: Liz Whiteford (LEADER Development Officer); Yvonne Boa (HighLife Highland)

Apologies: Audrey Sinclair, Biz Campbell; Tristan Southall,

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:

AM welcomed Clara Hickey and Carla Lees to their first WRSL LAP meeting and Lindsay Simpson back from her maternity leave. For the benefit of the new members present everyone present introduced themselves.

All members present were asked to sign a Code of Conduct form relating to meetings and information which everyone did.

Photographs of all present were taken for possible inclusion on the Highland LEADER website.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST / REGISTER OF INTEREST FORMS:

Still some ROI forms to be returned – please return to LW asap.

NOTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

Note of 23.2.16 LAP meeting (previously circulated) was accepted as an accurate record of the meeting. Proposed by: Fran Cree / Seconded by: Tom Forrest

MATTERS ARISING: Nothing raised

DEVELOPMENT OFFICER UPDATE:

The Highland LEADER Programme officially launched on 9.5.16. Most up to date version of the LAAP circulated to LAP members and now available on the website (www.highlandleader.com). To avoid confusion, members were reminded to destroy any earlier out of date versions. The WRSL LAP has to review its Local Area Action Plan (LAAP) within 6 months of the Programme's launch so this review will be an agenda item for the 23.8.16 WRSL LAP meeting.

As at 23.5.16 there have been 13 WRSL area EOIs received of which 2 also relate to other neighbouring Highland LAP areas and 1 of which relates to rural enterprise/farm diversification which will be dealt with by the Strategic LAG Rural Enterprise sub-group which has a separate Highland budget and eligibility criteria – criteria not expected to be available until July at the earliest.

Of the 12 EOIs received from community organisations enquiring about WRSL LAP LEADER funding, all have been contacted since the launch of the programme and notified about any eligibility issues arising from their EOIs and asked whether they still wish to pursue the LEADER application process. One pre-application form has been released to date.

WRSL LAP members were reminded of their decision (and the decision of the Highland LAG) that EOIs, Pre-applications and Full applications remain confidential until a decision/grant offer is issued. Any record of discussions about individual EOIs, Pre-applications, and full applications would be included as an appendix to the note of WRSL LAP meetings.

Members were asked whether they felt that the launch of the Highland LEADER Programme required any further advertising/promotion in the WRSL area or whether they felt that information about the launch of the LEADER Programme in Highland had already been well circulated/was readily available on the website? No plans for further advertising/promotion currently planned by the WRSL LAP.

Continuation of THC loan service is still not a certainty but the Highland LAG is trying to progress some options but meantime applicants will have to address their project cashflow as part of any Highland LEADER application

AM updated those present on her attendance at the Scottish LEADER conference

APPLICATION PROCESS/ASSESSMENT/SCORING:

Liz Whiteford delivered a training session which provided details about the 3-stage application process operating in Highland and included a mock pre-application assessment/scoring session which proved very useful to those present. The need for/value of the stage 2/pre-application form was queried and LW responded that this was included to enable applicants to provide more information about the project which would allow the LAP to undertake an interim project assessment and to provide early feedback to applicants on their project. If the pre-application form was not included applicants would have to submit a project plan which asks for a lot of the information that the pre-application form includes and, if the LAP's recommendation is to progress to a full application, a lot of the information included in the pre-application form can be copied and pasted into it. The Highland LAG intend to review the 3-stage process after a trial period.

AOCB:

On behalf of the WRSL LAP, AM thanked LW for all her work and the support provided to WRSL LAP members.

In anticipation of the current youth members from the Plockton/Gairloch area probably resigning from the WRSL LAP later this year, LW contacted Paul Burden, local Youth Development Officer who originally nominated them about planning for their succession. One option put forward by PB was for him to act as the youth member contact and for him to seek youth views from a pool of unnamed Plockton/Gairloch young people as and when required and to feed their views back to the WRSL LAP which was accepted by the WRSL LAP as an option if individual youth member replacements were not able to participate in quarterly round the table LAP meetings in Achnasheen.

FUTURE WRSL LAP MEETING DATES, VENUE AND TIMINGS

	2016	2016	2017
DATE	Tues 23 AUG	Tues 22 NOV	Tues 21 FEB
VENUE	Achnasheen Hall	Achnasheen Hall	Achnasheen Hall
TIME	10:30-12:30	10:30-12:30	10:30-12:30