

## Administrative Body Monmouthshire County Council

### Vale of Usk Local Action Group

Meeting Title	Vale of Usk Virtual LAG Meeting (due to Covid19)	Meeting Date	22 <sup>nd</sup> October 2020
Venue	Remote video access from homes	Meeting Time	2 pm – 4 pm
LAG Attendees	Alan Michie, Ruth Waycott, Andrew David, Elaine Blanchard, Lynne Richards, Claire Brown, John Harris, Nicola Bradbear, Sharran Lloyd, Mandy Moore		
Apologies	Neville Hart, Phil Powell, Alastair Robertson, John Davies, Matthew Bevan, Gareth Baker, Helen Fletcher, Pam Mason (after approval of membership application)		
Absent no apology received	Katy Stevenson		
MONCC	Mike Powell, Mark Lloyd, Deserie Mansfield, Alison Grimson, Zara Bligh, Louise McGuinness		
Meeting Description	Fourth LAG meeting of 2020 with election of Chair and Vice Chairs		

Alan Michie chaired the meeting, which was quorate. Alan welcomed the group to the 25<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Vale of Usk LAG. He outlined the proposed timescale of 1 hr 30 minutes for the meeting and the vote for the new Chair and Vice Chair would take place at the end of the proceedings. This would be his last meeting as Chair. Alan asked for AOB (none were raised), any Conflicts of Interest and any nominations for the position of Chair to be sent by email before the end of the meeting to Mark Lloyd. Voting for Chair would be private emails to Mark Lloyd.

#### 1. Review the Minutes of 16<sup>th</sup> July 2020 LAG Meeting

**1a.** Alan asked if there were any inaccuracies or alterations needed.

**After discussion CB, EB, JH, MM, LR agreed that food projects would be amended by Des Mansfield.**

**1b. Food projects:** Des briefly explained about some of the food initiatives being developed. The information gleaned, highlights that there should be no boundaries with food. Farmers should be encouraged to allow others to develop local volunteer/ growing activities that are community led, to reduce food miles and keep food buying local. The data analysis project, funded by Welsh Government, is progressing.

Food banks have a stigma whereas Community Larder Projects can develop local volunteer growing activities. Crickhowell has developed a Food Hub for community co-operative called Our Food and they wish to expand their activities into Monmouthshire to support the food/farming/producers in our area.

**1c. Halls Together** project is making progress but it is recognised that lockdown is affecting responses. It was agreed that a new email would be sent to the Community Councils to endeavour to get new information about hall management committees. The old databases and the old website are now out of date.

**1d. Digital Project:** Mike Powell gave a short update on how this idea was developing. An appointment for a new digital officer is due in the next few weeks, so allowing for protocols the position should be active around Christmas or the New Year. Mike wants to act as quickly as possible in order to take full advantage of the Leader money available in the time.

**1 e. Openreach Community Report** Claire Brown updated the group on progress. The project is not quite completed as the market place moves quickly and the challenge is how to get communities working together. Spectrum is going out to 100,000 homes across SE Wales; they are a serious player in Wales. Alan asked if this information had been shared with Phil Powell and Mike responded to say that all broadband interventions will be put onto the MonCC GIS system non-public facing website to force competition to ensure Openreach takes action.

Mike Powell outlined that WG want a financial review of Local Development Strategy. They are happy the group goes ahead and WG will assess the financial aspects once they have the staffing capacity to do so. (post COVID)

2. **Election of New LAG member:** Pam Mason left the LAG two years ago but expressed a desire to return. The group discussed her role within the community and which interest group she would represent. Pam is a volunteer within the Third Sector. Some members questioned her voluntary association but as nothing was in the rules about members having to be linked to particular interest groups, votes were cast, electing Pam onto the LAG. MM abstained from voting until the point could be clarified. (7 = Yes, 1 = No, 1 = abstention). **APPROVED.**
3. **New Projects by On-Line Voting.** Alan asked if on-line approvals would be recorded as required in the minutes at the next LAG Meeting. This had not been done, but all online voting was published on the website for public viewing. Zara will ensure that all up-to-date, on-line approved projects are recorded as an Annex to these minutes. In future all on-line approved projects will be included in the Minutes of the following full LAG meeting.
4. **Financial Report:** Alison Grimson tried to share her report with the LAG, however technical issues prevented this happening. She will send the report to members separately in the next few days.
5. **Voting Procedure.** Mark Lloyd expressed concern that members were going to have to leave the meeting before voting could take place. Gareth Baker wanted to have a vote but as he was not at the meeting this was not possible. It was decided to do the vote before the end of the meeting. Candidates who had expressed an interest in being elected as Chair were Alastair Roberts and Pam Mason. Votes by private email to Mark Lloyd were invited at this stage.
6. **Project Report:** Michael Powell gave an overview of the work of the project to date. The details of which are included in the attached report, 25<sup>th</sup> September 2020.  
**6a. Future RDP funding opportunities:** It was decided that it would be helpful for the LAG to put together a group who would meet to discuss the opportunities available and to work on ideas going forward. Mike also mentioned that there was a possibility of extra funding which may allow the LAG to continue until June 2023. Alan asked Mike to look into the idea of readjusted the groups to create a more holistic approach to overlapping projects.
7. **Ballot Results.** Mike thanked Alan for his time and commitment as Chair and Mark announced the result of the private ballot for the new Chair. Nine votes had been cast, two for Alastair, and seven for Pam Mason. Assuming that Alastair is happy to be one of two Vice Chairs then it was announced that these positions would be taken by Ruth Waycott and Alastair Robertson.
8. **AOB.** No items raise so Alan gave a vote of thanks to the group and wished Pam every success in her new role as Chair and closed the meeting.

Notes prepared by:	Louise McGuinness/Zara Bligh
Date:	26 <sup>th</sup> October 2020

2021 LAG Meetings: Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2021 10 am  
Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2021 2 pm  
Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2021 10 am  
Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2021 2 pm

**Actions**

1. **DM** Amend minutes of 16<sup>th</sup> July re Food Project.
2. **MP/LJ** **Halls Together.** Further communication to be sent to Community Halls
3. **MP** **Openreach Community report.** An update on Projects to be shared with members.
4. **MP** **Local Development Strategy.** WG request for a review.
5. **MP** **Projects.** On-line Projects approved to be recorded within these minutes
6. **AG** **Financial Report.** Circulate the current position
7. **MP** **Working Group.** Organise a meeting to discuss the LAG’s Structure with future ideas for the Group to go forward.
8. **MP** **Officers.** Write formally to members outlining the elected Officers and LAG support staff roles.

ANNEX

**Projects that were previously approved on-line using Written Procedure methods are below.**

T2019 DEVELOPING RESOURCES FOR FARM ENTERPRISE	(APPROVED 10/20)
T3019 ROGIET COMMUNITY SHOP & CAFÉ	(APPROVED 09/19)
T2017 CLUSTER SCHOOLS EDUCATIONAL PROJECT	(APPROVED 10/20)
T2018 FOOD DEVELOPMENT AND DATA RESEARCH	(APPROVED 06/19)
T3018 SADBROOK SKILLS SWAP	(NOT APPROVED)
T4013 PEN Y CAE (OFF GRID ENERGY STUDY)	(APPROVED 02/19)
T4009 MASTER PLANNING FOR HEAT NETWORKS	(APPROVED 01/19)
C002 FOOD HUB DEVELOPMENT	(NOT APPROVED)
T5012 IoT ASSISTED LIVING	(APPROVED 09/18)
T1012 TINTERN ABBEY TRAIL	(APPROVED 03/18)
T1019 ST MARY’S PRIORY ABREGAVENNY	(APPROVED 02/18)
T5011 ROBOTICS IN THE COMMUNITY	(APPROVED 04/18)
T2013 ECONOMIES OF THE FUTURE STUDY	(APPROVED 12/17)
T2011 EUROCOOK	(APPROVED 02/18)
T1016 LIVING LEVELS ACCOMMODATION PROJECT	(APPROVED 09/17)
T2012 CREATIVE ARTS CO-WORKING SPACE	(APPROVED 06/17)

T3016 RURAL TRANSPORT STUDY	(APPROVED 06/17)
T1005 VISITOR INFORMATION PROJECT	(APPROVED 05/17)
T4007 FULLY CHARGED	(APPROVED 06/17)
T2010 LOCAL POLLINATOR PROJECT (NATURE ISN'T NEAT)	(APPROVED 05/16)
T5006 LLANOVER HALLS DIGITAL CLUSTER	(APPROVED 06/17)
T3014 CREATIVE LIVES, ACTIVE LIVES	(NOT APPROVED)
T2006 FOOD HUB FEASIBILITY STUDY	(APPROVED 04/17)
T1010 ABERGAVENNY CASTLE EVENTS	(APPROVED 02/17)
T5004 TVWS BROADBAND PILOT	(APPROVED 11/16)

