

## 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> April 2021
Venue	Remote video access from homes	Meeting Time	2 pm – 4 pm
LAG Attendees	Pamela Mason, Alastair Robertson, John Harris, Alan Michie, Lynne Richards, Andrew David, Kate Stevenson (leave 3 pm), Ruth Waycott, Mark McLoughlin, Adam Taylor, Claire Brown, Elaine Blanchard (leave 2.30 pm), John Davies, Phil Powell (arrive at 3 pm)		
Apologies	Sharran Lloyd		
MCC	Mike Powell, Mark Lloyd, Deserie Mansfield, Lucinda James, Alison Grimson, Adam Greenwood, Zara Bligh, Louise McGuinness		
Guest Speaker	Shirley Hughes, Volunteer, Exhibition Unit at Monmouthshire Livestock Market		
Meeting Description	Second LAG Meeting for 2021		

2 pm Welcome – Pam Mason, Chair. Meeting is quorate, no conflicts of interest declared.

1. Apologies for absence: Sharran Lloyd, Phil Powell  
Neville Hart has left the group and has been replaced by Adam Taylor from Gwent Wildlife Trust.
2. Approval and Matters Arising from Minutes 21<sup>st</sup> January 2021 – PM.
  - No comments or amendments. (Accepted Alan, seconded Andrew)
  - Des said an amendment to previous minutes was not required.
3. Financial Update and Update on Lead Body – MP and AG
4. 43 projects up and running £895,000 committed. Four pipeline projects to be considered, total of £125,444. If all projects go through £1,140,083 90% spent with £118,732 left to complete the projects. Funds can be swapped between the 5 themes.
5. New Projects Update  
Lucinda James. Halls Together - has been on hold because of Covid but started again now. Halls are being asked if they want to take part, each hall will receive a phone call to start the ball rolling. The Heat Mapping Report is due soon, limited potential for large scale energy projects in Monmouthshire, but Newport looks promising. Llanover Digital Inclusion – is planning basic IT training courses. The Bryn have purchased 4 tablets and Llanarth is looking to join this project.

Mike Powell. Independent Living Project, started November will run to the end of September 2021. Gwent Authorities will trial 50 devices designed between the partners to combat Social Isolation and loneliness. Newport - 10 Komp devices- incoming calls only for those with no IT experience. Blaenau Gwent – 10 Cascade 3D devices – sensors for light, movement, temperature. MCC - 10 Kraydel devices – to interact with the TV. Torfaen - 10 Ethel devices (similar to the Kraydel). Caerphilly - 10 ARMED monitors for movement for falls prevention. All LAs- well engaged and trained, now out to recruit users. Also looking for test homes for Alexa, the Hive to create fully integrated homes.

Mark Lloyd. Non-statutory services has two projects in progress. The third will probably withdraw. Owen Wilce was leading on this but has been seconded to a different project, so Fred West is now leading. £20,000 left for further training, to develop positive liaison between local authority and the public. Developing Our Young People project: lack of progress a concern so funding will be withdrawn. £35,000 to go back into the pot.

Members of Theme 4 sub group have new projects to consider. Carbon literacy training, climate change, footprint. Expanding this programme to include Train the Trainer courses for the Town and Community Councils. Llanover Estate properties are looking at low energy efficiency within the listed building world. They need professional advice.

Adam Greenwood. He has had many broadband queries from MCC residents. Llanthony Valley and wider broadband projects funded through Welsh Gov. Raglan Castle is a trial site for 5G connectivity targeting four areas of rural economy including education, transport, rural economy and tourism at Raglan Castle. Smart Towns for high street rescue and development. Five companies have been asked to quote for the final evaluation of Leader programme.

6. LDS Review – Mike. Highlighted the shortfalls that need addressing, food and food tourism, renewable energy linked with climate change, and the digital exploitation. Members asked to raise hands if they agreed these were the projects to focus on, general consensus “Yes”. Alastair feels that slimming down some of the projects to be able to concentrate the money on climate change issues would be favourable, and Phil said de-carbonisation was up on the political agenda.
  7. Future Ways of Working – Pam: The future is about much larger bits of work- RDP funding may end but the need for the work does not. Leverage of future funding for the LAG is necessary and how can the LAG contribute? Mike responded saying the LAG is recognised for its expertise by senior officer at MonCC.
  8. UK Community Renewal Fund might be the way forward post Brexit. This is controlled by Westminster as a precursor to the planned Prosperity for All fund due to be launched July 2022. MCC would be bidding into this level-up fund for Capital and Revenue Community Led projects. Fund has a website launched in April 2021. Ideas could come from Town Teams, Community Councils etc. Press releases were going out across the county. Money needs to be spent by March 2022. The LAG voted to be involved with this process.
  9. Shirley Hughes gave an interesting and comprehensive account of the progress to date of the Exhibition Unit at the Monmouthshire Livestock Market.
- Des gave a brief account of the Food and Farming Business Development and Key Elements of the Short Supply Chains projects. Des will send a written report to each LAG member outlining the Action Plan for Food and the Vision of Monmouthshire as a Centre of Excellence.
10. Pam thanked everyone for their time, effort and commitment to the Vale of Usk project and closed the meeting at 4pm.
  11. Date of the next meetings: Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2021 – 10 am
  12. Date of extraordinary meeting to discuss UK CRF applications 27<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Notes prepared by:	Louise McGuinness/Zara Bligh
Date:	29 <sup>th</sup> April 2021

<b>2021 LAG Meetings:</b>	<b>Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2021</b>	<b>2 pm</b>
<b>2022 LAG Meetings:</b>	<b>Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2022</b>	<b>10 am</b>
	<b>Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2022</b>	<b>2 pm</b>