

## Projects Update LAG 21st January 2021

### Theme 1

**Tintern Abbey Trail** – Stalled as unable to gain access to venues due to Covid

**Canal Educational Barge – Obtained a** Section 106 grant of £14,300 will allow the project to purchase essential items such as new disabled lift motor, seating, flooring, and improve the electricity charging supply via an improved cable connection and boat solar panels. Since lock-down ended maintenance work has been carried out on the boat by a limited number of volunteers operating with suitable precautions. Training has continued where possible - • **Personal Survival and Water Safety Fire Training** – Maritime and Coastguard Agency

approved course run at Goytre Wharf by The Boat Centre Stockport. 2 volunteers and Trainee Boatmaster attending.

• **Emergency First Aid at Work** - Maritime

### Theme 2

**Gilwern Schools educational programme** –

**Food Sector development and data analysis** -

**Developing resources for Farm Enterprise** -

### Theme 3

**Be. Community Programme** – The autumn/winter 2020/21 training programme has been the most effective so far with the highest number of attendees due in some respects to Covid making it easier for people to attend through training being delivered online. Over 30 people have attended safeguarding training sessions for example. Later this week the 2021 programme is being launched with new training opportunities being offered. LAG members will be sent details once ready. An online training portal will be available once programme has finished

**Rogiet Shop & Café** - Our initial plan at the outset of the grant period was to have applied for capital funding by the end of the 12 months. The timetable has been affected by issues such as COVID. However, plans have been drawn up and a 3D model constructed. We have consulted with the community from idea to design. The planning application has been submitted (DM/2020/01687) with a decision pending. This means we have completed up to stage 4 of the RIBA scheme. There has been additional planning costs which have been covered by RCJ. We have submitted our application to people and places for funding to complete Stage 4 (construction designs and build costs). We expect a decision by end of January. This funding would enable us to progress to the next stage which is applying for capital funding. We will be seeking this from People & Places, The Community Facilities Programme and our own fundraising. RCC are drawing up a lease with MCC solicitor which will be activated if funding for the build is successful. They have offered us a no break 25 year lease rent free. We had planned to run a series of pop up shops at the café from March through to June but Covid has prevented that. We did surveys at the design consultations with the architect in February (over 100 people) and asked what would be the products they would most like to see in the shop. We then used online surveys to gain additional information about products.

**Farmers Wellbeing Exhibition Unit** – £700 (charitable donations) has been given towards the Project and it has been ring fenced by FCN head office, plus £1000 contribution by FCN. The Chair of Monmouthshire FCN has spoken with one of the Monmouthshire Livestock Market Auctioneer's, who has confirmed that only one signature would be required on the Licence to Occupy a site at the market, and he was willing to sign the Licence. This would be done very soon, and then passed onto Deb Hill-Howell for MCC and we are done on that front. Livery – the English/Welsh translation is frustrating but we are getting there! Vicky Beer, FCN head office wanted an update because Welsh Government was asking her. We would like to get to the MLM by Easter.

**Developing our Young People** – the start of this new project has been delayed due to severe operational work pressures within Children's Services over the Christmas/New Year period and the necessity of having to cover for staff off sick or in isolation. However, the project worker job description is nearing completion and is currently going through job evaluation

#### **Theme 4**

**Heat Networks** – the heat mapping study is entering its final stage. The consultants have identified a number of potential heat networks which were presented at the last steering group meeting held in early December. A meeting is being held tomorrow to go through a draft version of the report. It is anticipated the final report will be received by the end of March

**Halls Together** – On hold due to Covid

#### **Theme 5**

**Llanover Cluster** – Focus has been on virtual training although successful Covid safe sessions on Christmas wreath making were held on two Saturdays in December at Llandewi Rhydderch village hall. Each session was attended by 10 people and was very well received. Plans are underway for a live stream of cooking for children and basic digital training

**IoT and Independent Living** – a contract has been advertised on Sell2Wales for the provision of technological products (devices/services/platforms) to enable people to live more safely and independently in their own homes. Submissions are due by 25<sup>th</sup> January with plans to appoint the preferred supplier a week later

#### **Potential project**

A community food larder project will be put before LAG members within the next couple of weeks

