

## Projects Update LAG 22<sup>nd</sup> April 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 Boat Master attending.
- **Emergency First Aid at Work** – Maritime

Despite this and mostly due to covid the project cannot continue and support from RDP will be withdrawn. The project is no longer viable and the organisation has now been introduced to Gilwern Outdoor Centre for future support.

### Theme 2

**Gilwern Schools educational programme** – This has stalled and we are currently re-positioning the project. The schools have just resumed and we relook at the finance and current spend with a view to re-positioning – we have also extended the deadline end date.

**Food Sector development and data analysis** – funding for the core project of data analysis was sourced through Wales Govt –240k. Funding originally allocated has now been returned to the RDP “Pot”. We are now six months into the project and the data analysis programme now includes building the dashboard, developing partners (NRW, OSS and Others) and continues to gain momentum. 1k has been help for potential development of the food hub project which will be starting shortly.

**Developing resources for Farm Enterprise** - The project moves forward with a series of online meetings attracting Food and Farming activists. There are a series of fortnightly meetings on the key subject with a view to developing an action plan.

Land access is proving the most difficult to engage in the process.

### Theme 3

**Be. Community Programme** – although RDP payments towards the project coordinator have ceased, some payments are still being made towards the training sessions. These sessions are continuing to be delivered online and have proved highly popular as evidenced by responses to post training questionnaires. More sessions are either booked or planned to be held within the next couple of months. An online training portal will be available once the programme has finished although efforts are being made to source further funding to extend the programme. Officers feel that this project has positively affected the relationship

between the authority and communities, perhaps exacerbated by its role during the pandemic. Plans are in place to undertake an independent evaluation.

**Farming Community Network Exhibition Unit Project** – (up-date at the LAG Meeting) the Exhibition Unit is refurbished, it is now being re-upholstered and livery wrapping is being applied. Permission has been granted to locate at the Monmouthshire Livestock Market, but the move is delayed until the COVID19 rules are lifted. They are presently organising the rota for health issues, emergency services, animal welfare and ICT, once it is at the MLM.

**Developing our Young People** – at a project sponsor meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> April, concerns were expressed at the apparent lack of progress. Notwithstanding severe operational pressures within Children's Services, the completed project worker job description is still awaiting senior officer sign off. Due to the impending time limit imposed on projects to complete by the end of the programme, it has been agreed to set a deadline of the LAG meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> April for the sponsor to provide a definite timeline for the appointment of a project officer. If this cannot be provided, regrettably, the project funding will have to be withdrawn.

#### **Theme 4**

**Heat Networks** – a draft of the final heat mapping report has been submitted by the consultants and they went through the main findings at a steering group meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> April. Although the potential for large scale heat networks is limited, a number of small scale schemes have been identified. The final report will shortly be made available via the website once the observations from the group meeting and any other comments are taken into account.

**Halls Together** – we have re-visited this project in light of restrictions starting to be eased. We had 16 responses to the initial email and form that was sent out last year. These halls will be contacted and given an update on where we are. We will try and contact the halls that haven't responded again over the next couple of weeks.

#### **Theme 5**

**Llanover Cluster** – This project has mainly been on hold due to Covid restrictions. However, future training needs have been identified and once we have a date for the halls to re-open we can start organising further training.

**IoT and Independent Living**- The 5 devices have now been selected to trial across the 5 LA areas. 4 of the devices selected will look primarily at addressing loneliness and social isolation. 2 of the 4 devices will also include monitoring participants through sensors which monitor movement, temperature, Lux etc. The 5 device will address falls prevention with the participants having a wearable device that monitors the individual and can help identify potential health and social care risks leading to a more independent living.

The devices selected and the area they are being trailed in are as follows: Kraydel Konnect- Monmouthshire, KOMP- Newport City Council, Ethel- Torfaen, Cascade3d connect care- Blaenau Gwent, ARMED- Caerphilly.

Each of the LA partners are to trial 10 devices if possible. All of the partners are now receiving training on how to install and use the devices ready for when the service users have been selected. All the partners are now working on selecting appropriate service users to participate in the project and ensuring that they and they family are fully on board with the project. We are now working through the appropriate paper work needed such as consent forms, privacy notices and monitoring and evaluation questionnaire