

Vale of Usk Local Action Group
Llanarth Village Hall
Thursday 19th July 2018
MINUTES

Members
Present:

Alastair Robertson
Sarah Coakham
Andrew David
John Davies
Phil Powell
John Harris
Angela Jones
Sharran Lloyd
Pamela Mason
Alan Michie (Chair)
Neville Hart
Ruth Waycott
Joanne Gillard (GAVO)

Officers:

Alison Grimson
Mike Powell
Mark Lloyd
Deserie Mansfield

Apologies:

Mandy Moore
Clare Parsons
Sara Jones
Lynne Richards
Katy Stevenson
Gareth Baker
Nicola Bradbear

Welcome. The Chair welcomed LAG members to the sixteenth meeting. The meeting was quorate (2 private; 6 voluntary; 5 public). Congratulations were given to Bob Greenland on becoming ordained, Sara Jones Community Councilor for the Llanover ward is now a new member and has joined the LAG in his place.

1. **Minutes of the last meeting.** Matters arising – John Harris & John Davies to contact Owen Wilce regarding developing the Be. Community project in the Newport area. Members were reminded to vote promptly on projects. MP suggested that potential projects would go on the website for LAG members to give their comments. Actions from the last meeting were all completed or addressed in this agenda.

Minutes of 18th April 2018 - Approved.

2. **Financial Update – MP & AG** 34 approved projects, 55% of the total funding has been allocated with 95% of funds committed. Claims from Monmouthshire CC to be submitted to Welsh Government for the period ended 30th June 18 in due course. AM asked the question "are we getting value for money for the projects?" Overall reaction from members was yes but more emphasis needs to be given on marketing of the projects by the applicants. PM suggested a retainer put aside for marketing a project
3. **Project update - PM**

PM gave an update on St Mary's Priory, the final report is now available online at monmouthshire.biz There are discussions ongoing as to the recommendations arising from the report and how to carry this forward. There is to be training for volunteers hosted by Chris Jones and Owen Wilce in August. PP suggested that other Village Halls may be able to learn something from this study.

Electric Vehicle charging "Fully Charged" has been a very successful project, there is evidence of more usage and it is certainly evolving. AM suggested that the LAG be promoting this project? ML mentioned that he may get in touch with BBC wales to do a follow up story

Food Hubs Cooperation bid has now completed their application and will go out to the LAG

Euro Cook launch was very successful and has certainly been one of the best value projects to date.

4. Exciting Developments - MP (see attached presentation)

Independent Living – an Application has gone to the theme group, along with funds being sort from the Big Lottery for up to £100K. Following the launch of the GovTech scheme there will be opportunities for LEADER.

Rural Transport Development – the study was carried out by Systra and there are now many other avenues to explore. There are now discussions with the CTA (Community Transport Association) for a bid up to the value of £200K which will include the support of a Rural Transport Co-ordinator.

RCDF – the latest round of RCDF funding welcomed 4 applications to Monmouthshire, one being the E. Gov for £160K which will enable every village hall in the county having broadband installed.

The Village Halls Energy makeover has been very successful, 23 halls in total applied and 5 were chosen to carry forward

Heat Networks Delivery Unit (HNDU) – there are grants available through this scheme where the match funding can be provided by a LEADER project with regards to the initial research of an idea. It was unanimously agreed to support this project.

5. **Any Other Business** – ML thanked Phil Powell & Andrew David for their time on the Energy Halls makeover project. MP mentioned that the Digital & Tourism theme groups need to be looked at and maybe involve the LAG at earlier stages in the new project application process.
JD – mentioned that the grant has now been received for their new Gym.

The Chair thanked members and informed that the next meeting is 17th October 2018 and closed the meeting at 12.15pm

6. Actions

- ML – **Get in touch with BBC Wales for a follow up story re: Electric Vehicles**
- MP - **Digital/Tourism Theme groups need to be addressed**
- AR/PM - **Recommendations on marketing LAG's successes**
- JD - **Be Community project to be followed up.**

2018 LAG Meetings:

Wednesday 17th October 2018 – 2 pm

Thursday 17th January 2019 – 10 am

