

Administrative Body Monmouthshire County Council

Vale of Usk Local Action Group

Meeting Title	Vale of Usk Virtual LAG Meeting	Meeting Date	12 th May 2022
Venue	Remote video access	Meeting Time	2.00pm – 4.00pm
LAG Attendees	Pamela Mason (PM), Sharran Lloyd (SL), Lynne Richards (LR), Andrew David (AD), John Harris (JH), Adam Taylor (AT), Elaine Blanchard (EB)		
Apologies	Ruth Waycott, Phil Powell, Alan Michie		
MCC	Mike Powell (MP), Des Mansfield (DM), Adam Greenwood (AG), Alison Cook (AC), Lucinda James (LJ), William Austin (WA), Mark Lloyd (ML)		
Meeting Description	Second Meeting of Vale of Usk LAG Meeting for 2022 (postponed from 28.04.22)		

2.00pm Welcome – Pam Mason, Chair. Meeting is NOT quorate, 3 Public, 3 Third, 1 Private. Members agreed to continue with meeting as no voting will be taking place. PM extended a special welcome back to Mike following his prolonged absence.

1. Apologies for absence: see above.
2. Approval and Matters Arising from Minutes 20th January 2022 – PM. JH moved; AD seconded. Minutes approved as a true and accurate record. No matters arising. PM extended thanks on behalf of the LAG to Zara for quality of minutes throughout the programme period.
3. Financial Report – AC. (See attached.) Introduced William Austin. Will is helping with financial processes on RDP up until the end of the programme in September. Went through list of projects and explained some will have zero balances due to being complete. Some projects (Be Community, IOT & Independent Living) have been extended so will still have money left to spend. There's approximately £133K left to spend although taking into account the committed expenditure it could well be that we end up around £18K overspent. This will not be an issue however as some projects may not spend to their full budget. Also, there's a few RDP staff who work on other projects outside the RDP and therefore their salaries are able to be paid out of a different budget.
4. Project Report. (See attached.) Relevant officers briefly updated members with progress on projects which are still live. AT provided a useful update on GWT's eDNA Grassland Fungi project. AG updated progress on the Community Renewal Fund projects. Members will recall that they were involved in the application assessment process. Projects are generally progressing well. UK Govt have issued a blanket extension meaning that projects, should they wish, can continue until the end of 2022 and submit final claims in January 2023. The vast majority of projects will take that up with some continuing to undertake most of their activity as planned. For information, activities under the Wye Valley River Festival will be taking place at the end of this month.

For the record, the following projects have been approved under the online voting process since the January 2022 meeting:

IOT & Independent Living extension - approved 20th January 2022. RDP amount £16,000

Our View extension – approved 21st February 2022. RDP amount £3,920

Gwent Wildlife Trust eDNA project – approved 17th March 2022. RDP amount £16,341

Be Community Programme extension – approved 11th April 2022. RDP amount £18,000

Pipeline project:

Restoring White-tailed Eagles to Wales (GWT). The project is open for voting. Members who haven't yet voted are able to do so by the 20th May deadline.

5. Any Other Business. As we reach the end of the programme PM thanked the RDP team for the huge amount of work they've done over these past years.

Due to delayed nature of the Spring meeting and difficulties in arranging meetings in the Summer holidays PM suggested a face to face meeting in September as way of celebrating the work and achievements of the LAG followed by a light lunch. Members generally in agreement and arrangements to be put in place.

MP thanked members for their support and informed the meeting that the LAG would no longer be required following the programme end in September. The RDP team will be seeking redeployment. Details are now emerging of the Shared Prosperity Fund.

LR reminded members of the event at Builth Wells on 9th and 10th June which will showcase the achievements of the RDP and LEADER throughout Wales over the years.

6. Pam thanked everyone for the time given to the Vale of Usk LAG. The next meeting will be in September, details to be arranged and communicated to members. The meeting closed at 3.15pm.

