

Regenerate NPT Meeting
10am, 11th December 2014
Venue: Afan Forest Park, Visitors Centre

Present: Councillor Anthony Taylor – Chair

Julia Jenkins (JJ)
Natasha Lewis (NL)
Louise King (LK)
Suzette Phillips (SP)
Emma Wilcox (EW)
John Davies (JD)
Carys Miles (CM)
Alison Owen (AO)
Richard Walters (RW)
L.J.Preece (LP)
Lynda Williams (LW)
Dan McCallum (DMC)
Peter Hunter (PH)
Ian Isaac (II)

Apologies for Absence

Annette Williams, Ian Whitehead-Ross, Julie Bibby/Lesley Smith, Rhysian Pengilley, Sue Reed, Tony Potts, Jonathan Morris, Clive Ball

1. Welcome, introductions and Apologies

The chair congratulated LK and Cognation on their award at The Swansea Bay Tourism Award.

2. Minutes of previous meeting

Everyone agreed the minutes from the previous meeting

3. Matters arising

None

4. Current RDP Programme

a. Update on projects

JJ explained to the group that Regenerate NPT members are currently responsible for the current RDP projects which will be coming to an end in December 2014. JJ went through paper 4a which provided an update on the achievements of all the Business Plan 2 projects.

Enterprise Support – This was run by NPTCBC in conjunction with Centre for Business. This project was only available in rural wards. JJ went through the projects targets and explained that most have these have been achieved, there was an explanation as to why any targets were not met.

DANSA – this project ended in September. The project was a ring and ride community transport service. The jobs created and jobs safeguarded targets have not been achieved and this was

due to the fact that they were set too high at the start as there was a misunderstanding regarding the types of jobs that could be claimed.

Credit Union – this project ended in December 2014. The project was very successful and as a result this Credit Union was named the best Credit union in Wales.

Calan DVS – this project ended in March 2014. This project was to employ a family worker to help children and young people who have been affected by domestic abuse. This service is invaluable as mainstream funding is only targeted at providing refuge for women at crisis point

Upgrading buildings in Margam Park – run by NPTCBC, this project includes Citrus House, Chapter House and the Infirmary. 3 buildings have been restored and are open to the public to visit.

Groundwork – This project is coming to an end and due to finish in December 2014. Groundwork Bridgend Neath Port Talbot went into administration in October 2014 and therefore the project will come to an end earlier than expected. However most of the targets have been fully achieved.

Thinks Links – The final report outlining the findings of the research carried out is currently being drafted and will be coming out at the end of December 2014. This information has been used to formulate the new Local Development Strategy.

b. Evaluation

An evaluation has been carried out by Wavehill on Business Plan 2, the report is very positive. Copies of the report were provided for each member and a copy has been sent to WG for their information.

JJ went through the recommendations that were given in the evaluation:

1. Wavehill recommended that the partnership should be empowered to influence the design of projects they select and steer their delivery to maximise its impact on the sustainable development of rural wards. It must also be designed so that members are both proactive and representative of rural wards. This recommendation has already been done by establishing Regenerate NPT.
2. The recommendation was that any future LDS be more focused on using RDP in a more targeted way and that it should be founded upon a robust evidence base regarding need and opportunity. The previous LDS was not very detailed, WG have requested a more structured format for the next round of funding. Also the Lead Body was able to use the research carried out under the Think Links project as its evidence base for the objectives laid out in the new LDS.
3. The recommendation was that communication between WG, Lead Body and delivery partners needs to be

improved. There has been several staff changes within the RDP Team, this has now settled and will be sustained during the new programme.

4. Wavehill recommended that the LAG and the Lead Body should consider options for improving the quality of the monitoring and evaluation data being collected by projects. WG will set targets for each theme within the new programme, however consideration should be given to producing separate LAG targets which will be collected alongside the targets set by WG. These targets should be specific to the objectives set in the Intervention Logic. These targets should be set by the LAG for each project and should be monitored on a regular basis. Data should be collected at the start of the programme and reviewed regularly.
5. Wavehill recommended that consideration be given to commissioning the evaluation of projects over phases during the lifetime of the projects. This is something that the LAG will need to consider as it should identify gaps in monitoring data.

c. End of programme brochure

JJ introduced SP and her job role. SP will be working with project sponsors to produce an end of programme brochure for BP2. SP asked if everyone who had any ideas or comments for the brochure to contact herself or JJ. The brochure should be completed by February 2015.

5. New programme

a. Branding and Merchandise.

JJ informed the group of the new Regenerate NPT logo. Everyone was happy with the new logo and no comments were made. JJ informed the group that new pens with the logo and website address have been produced. The new website will be up and running in the New Year.

b. Feedback on LDS

The LDS was submitted to WG at the end of September 2014. JJ has received a few generic questions regarding the LDS but is hoping to hear something in March 2015. In the LDS it is proposed that the new round will start in July 2015.

c. New WG Guidance, paper 5c

WG provided a revised version of the LEADER guidelines on 31st October, JJ handed out a paper which outlines the key points. JJ went through the 3 areas of the budget animation, running costs and delivery costs. NPT have put forward a project to employ 3 facilitators to work with the communities, this will come out of the delivery costs budgets previously agreed this.

JJ pointed out that RDP will not fund more than 80% of the total project cost.

Forms have been produced to use when selecting projects. These forms have been submitted with the LDS.

JJ explained the rules of conflict of interest that will apply when a LAG member has submitted a project to the Group for appraisal.

d. Members handbook

JJ went through the contents of the member's handbook with the group. A training programme for members will be run, and training events will be held within the Regenerate NPT meetings. If anyone feels they need any other training please let JJ or NL know.

Action: JJ to add email address to members contact list.

6. Future meetings

AT had been approached by IWR to ask the LAG if there was a possibility of meeting on a different day of the week due to his work commitments on a Thursday morning. Everyone agreed to change the day to a Wednesday am.

Meetings will now take place on the 3rd Wednesday of the month. The next meeting will be on the 3rd Wednesday in February. NL will arrange the venue and let everyone know.

Action: JJ to produce a schedule for the year.

7. AOB

No comments. The chair thanked everyone for their support over the past year and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a happy new year.