

Regenerate NPT Meeting
18 September 2014
Venue: Taibach Community Centre.

Present: Richard Walters – Chair
Ben Riseborough (BR)
Julia Jenkins (JJ)
Natasha Lewis (NL)
Dan Mc Callum (DMC)
Peter Hunter (PH)
Emma Wilcox (EW)
John Davies (JD)
Annette Williams (AW)
Rhysian Pengilly (RP)
Julie Bibby (JB)
Rob Merrell (RM)
Greg Kaminaris (GK)
Tony Mc'Getrick (TMG)
Alison Owen (AO)
Angeline Spooner-Cleverly (ASC)
Clive Ball (CB)
Len Preece (LP)
Catrin Evans (CE)
Louise King (LK)

Apologies for Absence

Ian Whitehead-Ross, Tony Potts, Sue Reed, Councillor David Lewis, Linda Williams, Jonathan Morris

1. Welcome, introductions and Apologies

2. Minutes of previous meeting

Actions were looked at from the previous minutes.

Action: JJ to circulate LDS when complete.

3. Drop in Sessions - Feedback

BR explained to the group that as part of the consultation process for the new LDS 7 drop in sessions were held through the rural wards to give residents the chance to give their thoughts on the chosen themes and project ideas and to feed into the SWOT analysis. The attendance at the sessions was very poor. During the drop in sessions information was given on what RDP had previously funded in NPT and also on present and future projects. An exercise was carried out to find out what project types were most important to people in that area, there were 8 project types to choose from and a yellow sticker was put on the top 3 most important for that area. BR explained that all results and feedback from the drop in sessions will be put into the LDS.

4. New WG Guidelines

JJ explained the handout to the group. These are new guidelines that have been produced by WG. It is proposed that all projects will need to be owned by the LAG will have to be commissioned; therefore a tender process will have to be put in place.

Main points

- project ideas would have to go through a tender process but the LAG would own the projects
- List of ineligible costs, JJ went through match funding, RDP will fund up to 80% of the total project cost.
- RP commented that the guidelines are not very clear on where it says you are not able to give money directly to a project.
- EW asked if the LAG will need to follow the Authorities Procurement processes? JJ commented, that it would be easier to adhere to the processes as they are already in place. WG have provided guidance on EU procurement rules. The LAG would not employ the staff for projects this would be down to the project.
- TM asked if the EOI process could be using as the tendering process? JJ stated that there is no reason why this could not be the case.
- LK asked if the projects would have to be advertised on Sell to Wales? JJ replied yes they would, this is highlighted in the WG guidelines.
- JJ added that she is due to meet with NPTCBC Procurement Manager and will bring up all these issues at the meeting.

5. Project Eligibility

JJ then went through Appendix 3. There will be 3 Community Facilitators employed between the 5 headings/themes. The Local Authority will lead on this project and provide 20% in-kind and cash match funding for these posts. The Facilitators will assist organisations to develop projects and will provide a resource for organisations to use to build capacity.

The report outlined some projects that were received after the last panel and some that the panel asked to further develop.

Canolfan Maerdy have re-submitted their EOI and some of the ideas included are similar to those of the project submitted by Dove. There could be scope to work together,

Decision

The group agreed that the EOI's submitted by DOVE and Canolfan Maerdy can be considered in the action plan.

The Business Team indicated that they would like to appeal the decision not to support their project made by the panel. They approached the Lead Body with some questions relating to the scoring, these have now been resolved. JJ asked the group to support the idea of providing a tourism support project for rural tourism businesses as this was a project idea raised by the Think Links research carried out over the past 3 years.

Decision

The group agreed that this project can now be included in the action plan.

Intervention Logic Table – JJ asked if everyone is happy with this and explained the table is the action plan for the next 5 years. The group agreed that they were happy with the objectives and actions included in the Table.

6. LDS Submission

JJ ran through the draft LDS explaining the key points. JJ explained that the LDS is due in on 30th September so the final touches are just being added before submission. WG will score 9 different areas of the LDS and there is a minimum scoring threshold for each LDS and they will come back to the Lead Body with any queries, the Lead Body will be given the chance to revise the LDS as necessary. The Group agreed that the content of the LDS was acceptable. The Lead Body will send a copy of the LDS around to the Group following the submission to WG

7. Future meetings

Next meeting at 10am on 11th December, at Afan Argoed Visitors Centre.

8. AOB

JJ will keep everyone up to date with any new information that is received.