

Regenerate NPT (LAG)

Meeting: 10am, 30th June 2016
Venue: Margam Park

PRESENT:

Rhysian Pingilley – Glynneath Training Centre
Julie Bibby – Dove Workshop
Catrin Evans - NPTCBC
Jonathan Cosson – Warm Wales
Neil Thomas - NPTCBC
Tony Potts – NPTCVS (Vice Chair)
Wayne Slade – Neath Trades Union Council
Jonathan Morris – NPT Homes
John Evans – NSA Afan
Clive Ball – NPTC Group
Lynda G Williams – GCG Community Council
Peter Hunter – Blaenhonddan Community Council
Marian A Lewis – FSB
Natasha Lewis – NPTCBC
Ben Riseborough – LAG Manager NPTCBC
Suzette Phillips – NPTCBC
Len Preece – Canolfan Maerdy
Daron Herbert – Natural Resources Wales
Cllr Anthony Taylor – NPTCBC (Chair)
Alison Owen – DANSA
Susan Chilcott – Cognation

APOLOGIES:

Lynn Bray – South Wales Chamber of Commerce
John Davies – BayTrans

Item No.	Subject	Action
1.	Welcome and Apologies: Cllr Taylor welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were recorded.	
2.	Minutes of previous meeting Minutes were approved.	
3.	Matters arising not on agenda There were no matters arising.	
3a.	Update on EU Ben gave an update with regard to the possible ramifications of the EU referendum. Even though the original remit was until 2020 we can now only commit to 2 year funding, however extensions can be granted depending on the date that Article 50 is invoked, and Brexit negotiation outcomes. Ben will inform the group of any further news.	
4.	Budget Options Ben informed the group that the Lead Body has saved money by not recruiting a Rural Facilitator. It was decided that this money will be split between the 5 themes for the rest of the	

	programme.	
5.	<p>Current spend per theme</p> <p>Ben went through the budgets for each theme and informed the group how much money was left in each theme.</p> <p>Theme 4 – no money has been spent under this theme so far but we can, as a last resort, split this money into the other themes should it be needed. However the group agreed that a push in the promotion of theme 4 is needed. Lead body will work with Welsh Government to circulate guidance on what activities would be eligible.</p> <p>Marian Lewis suggested getting an expert speaker in to talk to the LAG to explain renewable. Marian has contacts she will pass on to Ben. It was also proposed that we get an Operator of renewable energy in to talk to the LAG as well.</p> <p>Ben clarified state aid to the group. State aid does not apply to RCDF only LEADER funding. Peter Hunter asked if we could clarify what exactly we can fund, RDP team to chase up WG on clarification of this.</p> <p>John Cosson mentioned that funds were available from Resource Efficiency Wales. Once we have clarity on this we can make more targeted calls specifying exactly what we can fund.</p> <p>Marian Lewis informed the group that she has trouble accessing the internet at home and this is a common problem within rural areas. Susan Chilcott mentioned that the European Structural Fund can help address digital exclusion. Rhysian Pengilley feels that the LAG needs to support projects on digital energy that impact the whole of NPT, not just isolated areas. Ben mentioned the possibility of getting someone to carry out a mapping exercise to see what is available in NPT. The LAG agreed this was a good idea.</p>	<p>RDP team</p> <p>Marian RDP team</p> <p>RDP Team</p> <p>RDP team</p>
6.	<p>RCDF Update</p> <p>The last call for applications ended in January 2016. 9 out of 10 of NPT applications were approved to the next stage of the process. These projects were invited by WG to submit a full application by October 2016.</p>	
7.	<p>Stage 2 applications update & results of project appraisals</p> <p><u>Creative Communities</u></p> <p>No conflicts of interest.</p> <p>This project has come back with a more robust project though Len Preece and Lynda Williams feel they would like to see the project reaching further into the Swansea Valley area (GCG, Tairgwaith areas). Neil Thomas raised the following questions, 1. Have the group made contact with Pontardawe Arts Centre and ELRS? 2. Have they received definite confirmation that the Kaya Festival is going ahead?</p> <p>Approved pending the above queries.</p> <p><u>A day in the life of Resolven</u></p>	<p>RDP team</p>

	<p>No conflicts of interest. The group unanimously felt that this was something that could be done via residents and local community groups linking up together and possibly with Creative Communities, rather than funding a local company to run the project. Not approved, go back with recommendations.</p>	RDP team
8.	<p>Stage 3 Project Presentations + question & answering + final decisions <u>Working with Nature</u> Cllr Taylor left the room. Catrin from the NPTCBC Wildlife Team gave a presentation. Marian Lewis asked if the project would link with local groups. Catrin explained that Community Councils could come on board at a later date. This project does not have a website but they are on facebook to advertise their activities. Neil Thomas asked about links with Communities First and Catrin confirmed they are in contact with Communities First. Ben explained to the group that because of the EU decision, this project will be contracted for 2 years with a possible extension of a year. Catrin left the room. Approved</p> <p>Catrin and Cllr Taylor came back in the room.</p> <p><u>Glantawe Outdoor Education</u> No conflicts of interest. Ben went through the concerns the LAG had with this project and then went through Rob's responses to those concerns. Approved</p>	
9.	<p>AOB Len Preece informed the group that Ian Whitehead-Ross' project engaged with groups in Canolfen Maerdy and Len had very good feedback and was very impressed with the project.</p>	