



	Initials/Actions
<p style="text-align: center;">West Cheshire & Warrington LEADER Executive Board 19th October 2016, 9:30am Lewis Carroll Centre, All Saints Church, Daresbury</p> <p>Board Members present: David Felix (Chair), All-Saints Church, Daresbury Guy Darragh, Trafford Council Chris McGloin, Mersey Forest Elizabeth Aldridge, Warrington Borough Council Joanne Butterill, NatWest Bank Andrew Hull, Sandstone Ridge Trust Charlotte Harris, Cheshire Wildlife Trust</p> <p>Advisors/Officers present: Joanna Douglass (LEADER Programme Manager, Cheshire West & Chester Council) Mandy Sibthorpe (LEADER Programme Manager (Cheshire East), Cheshire West & Chester Council) Ellie Morris (Programme Manager (Rural & Market Towns), Cheshire West & Chester Council) Sean Bell (LEADER Support Officer), Cheshire West & Chester Council</p> <p>1. Welcome and Apologies Apologies were received from Nicola Said, Cllr Harry Tonge, Chris Brown Bolton, Danielle Lea-Smith and John Heselwood.</p> <p>2. Minutes of previous meeting DF confirmed with the Board that the minutes were a true and accurate record, and enquired about the forestry project discussed at the previous meeting.</p> <p>JD explained that the applicant had decided that the recommended purchase of the extra safety equipment for the project was too much for the business to bear, but he has been in touch since to discuss a new project and may reapply at a later date.</p> <p>3. Conflicts of interest GD declared that he had assisted Dunham Ice Cream with their application and would therefore be unable to discuss it, while JB also declared a professional interest in Dunham Ice Cream.</p> <p>4. Executive Board Membership JD introduced GD and explained that he now represents Trafford and the Dunham Massey area. Danielle Lea-Smith from the Forestry Commission has been seconded into a new role; as of the date of the meeting, the LEADER team were still waiting to hear who would take her place on the LAG.</p>	<p>DF GD CM EA JB AH CH</p> <p>JD MS EM SB</p>

5. LEADER Update

JD reiterated that the LEADER team had initially received a statement from DEFRA stating that, following the UK's decision to leave the European Union, LEADER groups could continue working on pipeline applications as long as they were contracted prior to the Government's Autumn Statement, causing a flurry of applications. However, on 3rd October 2016, the Chancellor released a statement guaranteeing European funding up until the point at which Britain leaves the European Union.

It remained unclear as to whether or not LEADER promotion could take place, but the LEADER team continued to work with potential applicants.

The LEADER team had recently undergone their first Attestation Visit by the Rural Payments Agency, an inspection to confirm that the LAG's functions are being performed correctly and according to the RPA's requirements. It was also noted that Craig Bradley would no longer act as the LEADER team's liaison with the RPA; Mike Baker will now fulfil this role, although the RPA's current policy is to send a representative to just one LAG meeting per year.

6. Projects for Consideration

Project Ref. 104007

This project concerns the conversion of an existing outdoor equestrian riding arena for all-weather use, creating 2 Full-Time Equivalent jobs. The applicant purchased the site in 2006; at the time it was a run-down arena with turnover of just £3,000, which the applicant had increased to £76,000 in 2015. The applicant is seeking £13,050 of grant funding, or £6,525 per job created, representing good value for money.

The applicant had also demonstrated strong support for the project received from local riding clubs, as well as written confirmation that planning permission is not required.

DF asked the Board if they were happy to approve the project as per the Appraiser's recommendations and conditions, the Board unanimously agreed.

Project Ref. 102075

This project concerns the conversion of a Dutch barn into an ice cream parlour, selling both to visitors and other retailers. Two businesses operate from the farm; a farming contractor and Dunham Ice Cream, but the latter only had a small building from which to sell the ice cream. The applicant had requested a £30,250 grant and aimed to create 7 FTE jobs, an average of £4,321 of grant funding per job. The site was owned by the National Trust, who had confirmed that they were undertaking repairs to the building before finishing works for the project took place.

This application was originally made via a consultant but had massive omissions; the applicant then worked on the application themselves and made a great deal of corrections; however, the appraiser felt the applicant had misinterpreted some questions regarding project delivery and wider outcomes. As a result, some conditions have been placed on the project to provide the responses to these questions.

DF asked if the Board were happy to approve the project for funding according to the appraiser's recommendations, the Board voted unanimously in favour.



7. AOB

JD noted that a third project was due to be presented at the meeting, but unfortunately it was still undergoing the RPA’s Quality Check process and therefore could not be presented to the Board. As the next Executive Board meeting was not due to take place until 1st March 2017, the Board agreed to assess the project remotely and make their decision by e-mail.

EM added that a joint East/West LAG session has been discussed in order to ensure LAG members are fully conversant with the application process and the work required to bring an application to the Board.

AH asked if it would be possible for the LAG to visit some of the completed projects. Child protection issues around Bradley Barns Nursery were noted; CH suggested meeting at the Cheshire Wildlife Trust HQ nearby.

8. Dates of Future Meetings

A full LAG meeting is planned for late January 2017, date TBC. The next Executive Board meeting is scheduled for the 1st of March 2017.

I confirm these minutes are a true and accurate record,

Signature:

Name (please print):

Date:

