

Minutes
Cadwyn Clwyd Board of Directors
10:00am, Wednesday 19th October 2016

Loggerheads Country Mark, Ruthin Road, Nr Mold, CH7 5LH

1. Welcome and Apologies

Present: Mr A Jedwell (AJ), Dr. Norman Jones (NJ), David Darlington (DD), Cllr Rhys Hughes (RH), Lowri Owain (LO), Mr Adam Bishop (AB), Ms Catrin Jones (CJ), Ms Delyth Jones (DJ) Mr Gwyn Rowlands (GR), Ms Lowri Edwards (LE).

Apologies: Cllr Huw Jones (HJ), Cllr Carolyn Thomas (CT), Cllr Hugh Jones (HJ(W)), Mr John Les Tomos (JLT), Ms Janine Beggan (JB) and Mr Gareth Evans (GE), Ms Carolyn Brindle (CB)

The BOD was updated that Cllr Carolyn Thomas has resigned as a BOD member.

2. Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted and AJ went through matters arising. LO has raised the concerns about the state aid issue at a PMC meeting. However, LO explained that whilst lack of state cover for the LEADER programme is proving very restrictive, in terms of what the programme can fund, Cadwyn Clwyd is actively working to develop projects that do not constitute state aid. There was an update that the Sustainable Management Scheme: "Collaborative Sustainable Natural Flood Risk Management on the River Clwyd" EOI has been successful. The EOI for the Sustainable Management Scheme: "Payment for Eco- System Services Officer Network" has not been successful. The Co-operation and Supply Chain Development Scheme: "Smarter Energy" EOI has been successful. A bid was put in for the Glastir Facilitation Tender last May (2016) in cooperation with Menter Môn and Planed, but as result of the EU Referendum WG has put this project on hold until after the Autumn Statement.

LO gave an update on Llys Owain building. The upstairs office space has been advertised with Murray Sunderland Estate Agents but no interest has been shown so far. LO has approached DCC to advertise the office space with their contacts. Unofficial interest has been discussed with the AONB and the Llangollen Railway. The Llys Owain project for the old bank space is also progressing and a community consultation has recently been completed. As result of the community consultation, people would like to see an information hub linking with the Corwen station. Llangollen Railway has also expressed their interest in having a presence in the hub.

The BOD were informed of the dry rot in the downstairs foyer. The rot has been contained to the foyer and there are no further concerns.

3. Rural Development Programme Update

The EU Referendum and Brexit

WG have confirmed that they will be honouring the LEADER programme until December 2021. The RDP in Wales is currently in a better position than England as they are only honouring contracts signed before the Autumn Statement. Schemes have started to re-open since the EU Referendum. WG initially said they would only support projects that were completed within 2 years but they have now said they will fund projects that run until 2021.

Scheme Updates

LO gave an update on the RDP schemes. The RCDF currently has a £3 Million EOI window open and will have another in December and February. The December EOI window for RCDF capital cost projects (sub-measures 7.2 through 7.7) might be reduced from £3m to £2m, because c. £1m will be allocated to 7.1. Sub-Measure 7.1 provides support for drawing up development plans and/or protection and management plans. The intention is for groups to apply to this fund for professional fees and services costs for reports and plans that inform follow-up RCDF applications for capital cost projects relating to sub-measures 7.2 to 7.7. LAGs will need to apply to the Welsh Government to administer the 7.1 funds allocated to their area. The Sustainable Management Scheme, the Sustainable Production Grant Scheme and the Co-operation and Supply Chain Development have an EOI window currently open. WG have advised that this will be the last EOI window for the Sustainable Management Scheme. LO also mentioned that the whole value of the RDP has marginally reduced because of movements in the exchange rate but WG have assured that the value of LEADER will not be reduced.

4. Quarterly Reports

AB gave an overview and highlighted the projects that have open calls for participants.

5. Financial Reports

Cadwyn Clwyd

CJ gave an overview on Cadwyn Clwyd financial report. There is an overall loss for the year to date, due to spend occurring on the RENEW contract, and income for that project not yet received – due to claiming in arrears. A number of projects have commenced activity with spend of £122,191 in Denbighshire, £152,308 in Flintshire and £134,832 in Wrexham. Although cash at the bank is starting to get low, WG will be processing our advance claim of £354,000 this week to cover a six months period as advised by WG.

Cadwyn Adfywio

DJ gave an overview on Cadwyn Adfywio Balance Sheet within the Financial Statements.

6. Local Action Group (LAG) Update

An Overview of the projects applications was given. It was noted that a lot of projects are mirror projects for the 3 LAG areas. LO mentioned that projects are dependent on where match funding is available and no core funding forthcoming from the LAs in this programme has also made it more difficult. Discussions have been made with the LAGs to start coming up with projects.

AJ noted that Cadwyn Clwyd had funded a number of energy efficiency projects in the past and AB commented that the evidence was these had been very successful. AB added that at a WG capital asset visit to Pantymwyn Village Hall, where Cadwyn had funded insulation improvements, the Village Hall Management Committee was able to show the WG officer details of how their energy bills had been reduced following the investment. AJ requested a report from the Cadwyn Energy Officer on the energy efficiency projects that had been supported in the last Rural Development Programme 2007-2013 (2014).

ACTION: Silas Jones to prepare a report on energy efficiency projects supported by Cadwyn through the RDP 2007-2013.

7. **AOB**

AJ updated the BOD that Cadwyn Clwyd was expecting an invitation from Ian Bancroft to attend an upcoming Flintshire County Council Scrutiny Committee. LO explained that AB, GE and DD have previously attended a Wrexham Scrutiny committee meeting, and AB had also attended Denbighshire Member Area Group (MAG) meetings, all of which have been well received. However, Cadwyn has not attended equivalent meetings in Flintshire and it was noted that FCC had elected to have no presence on the Cadwyn Clwyd Board of Directors.

ACTION: Cadwyn Clwyd to contact Ian Bancroft to request for Cadwyn Clwyd to attend a FCC Scrutiny meeting

Since the last meeting, NJ has decided to step down as a member of the Denbighshire LAG. This has ensured a fairer balance of BOD members on the Denbighshire LAG, in line with WG advice.

LO explained that Cadwyn Clwyd was looking to bid in to deliver part of the 'Rural Programme Community Development Support' project, which is part of the Big Lottery. Through the 'Rural Programme', the Lottery are investing £13.5 million to create solutions to address rural poverty in Wales. The Lottery have earmarked around £2million to be shared between the 9 predominantly rural Local Authority (LA) areas of Wales, as classified by the Lottery themselves. This will equate to roughly around £40k per annum per participating LA area. Denbighshire qualifies, but Flintshire and Wrexham do not. LO explained that Cadwyn Clwyd is currently working with the North Wales LAG admin bodies to bid to run this fund for North Wales.

The BOD was updated that Cllr Huw Jones is getting better and the BOD members wished Gareth Evans well.

8. **Date & Time of Next Meeting**

Wednesday 1st March 2017 - at a location in Wrexham. Details to be confirmed over email.