

Greensand Ridge Local Action Group

Minutes of Meeting 21st July 2008

Attendance

David Morgan (Chair)	Beds & Cambs Rural Support Group
Laura Kitson	Beds & Luton GI Consortium
Sarah Hughes	Beds CC
Jon Billington	BLEDP
Colin Carpenter	Community Tree Trust
Sara Hind	EEDA
Jennifer Dancy	Flitton & Greenfield Parish Council
Mike Render	Forestry Commission
Matthew O'Brien	FWAG
Leanne Bacon	Gamlingay Parish Council
Bridget Smith	Gamlingay Parish Council
Gill Welham	Greensand Trust
Pauline Hey	Heath & Reach Parish Council
Nick Parrish	F.B. Parrish & Son
Mark Smith	North & Mid Beds CVS
Mike Johnston	Shuttleworth College
Julie West	Tastes Of Anglia
Caron Kendall	Tastes Of Beds
Janet Ridge (Accountable Body)	BRCC
Joel Carré (Programme Director)	BRCC
Jon Boswell (Secretariat)	BRCC

Apologies

Roy Tebbutt	Amphill Town Council
Diane Budd	Business Link
Rick Sanderson	Buy-local.net
Ali Bradbury	Clophill Parish Council
Richard James	Haynes Parish Council
Sandra Einon	MBDC
Helen Deavin	RSPB
Charles Whitbread	Southill Estate

1. Update from accountable body

JB talked through the update. No matters arising were recorded.

2. Draft LAG Terms of Reference

The draft Terms of Reference were agreed, subject to the following points:

- The upper limit for membership would be taken out in the interests of transparency and community engagement
- The accountable body does not have to sit on the LAG, but should sit on the steering group
- EEDA to be added to the LAG membership
- The steering group should be 'lean and mean', although the maximum should be set at 12 rather than 10
- Steering group members should be able to send deputies, particularly in the interest of maintaining the 50/50 balance of public to private sector representation

SH pointed out that, in addition to the contract between EEDA and the accountable body (BRCC), there would need to be a very clear partnership agreement between BRCC and the LAG, specifying the division of decision-making powers. It was agreed that this would be approved by LAG members over email.

MS highlighted the Community Area Networks proposed by the shadow Central Bedfordshire Council as a potential consultation mechanism in future.

ACTION:

- BRCC to circulate draft Partnership agreement for approval by email, prior to signing by the LAG Chair and BRCC Chief Executive
- BRCC to circulate confirmed Terms of Reference by email

3. Election of steering group

No nominations additional to those already identified in the Local Development Strategy were received during the meeting. It was agreed that members should be invited to nominate themselves by email further to the meeting.

As previously informed, this item was expanded to include the ratification of Charles Whitbread and David Morgan as LAG Chair and Vice Chair respectively, for an initial term running until the end of 2009. These appointments were approved by the LAG.

ACTION:

- BRCC to invite nominations for the steering group by email

4. Collaboration within the East of England

MR gave an update on the regional woodfuel project, for which EEDA has approved £4.5 million with conditions. The project, which is relevant to all of the LAGs in the region except the Fens, will develop the supply chain for woodfuel up as far as storage (other ways will need to be found to develop the demand end of the chain). A Project Manager (Edwin van Ek) has been appointed.

SH agreed to present on the main RDPE at the next meeting.

5. LAG Skills and Capacity-building needs

JB confirmed that capacity-building needs would be identified based on the skills audit completed for the LDS, as well as the demands on the LAG, which would become clearer once further information was received from EEDA. The intention was to meet these needs through the incorporation of a short training or briefing session into each LAG meeting.

6. Draft meetings calendar

Members were asked to complete and return the availability form to JB.

ACTION:

- LAG members to return availability form to JB prior to confirmed dates being circulated

7. AOB

There was no other business.

Jon Boswell
20th August 2008