

Upper Eskdale Development Group Minutes of Meeting: 3rd April 2014

Apologies: Brian Patterson.

Not present: Clare Carr Saunders, June Adgo.

Present: Jennie Mills, Diana Lilley, Victoria Long, Nick Jennings, Jock Miller, Nancy Chinnery, Ernie Buck, Kal Malhi, Bernard Provost.

MEETING

Wendy Reid from The Development Trust Association Scotland and Paul Mellis Scotland Community Development Centre

UEDG have acquired funding from The Development Trust Association Scotland through an application presented by the Project Development Manager. This funding is to help UEDG become a sustainable organisation and is to last for 2 years.

Wendy Reid explained the role of the Trust (which have offices in Edinburgh and Inverness) and how we can work together for the benefit of UEDG.

Apart from the funding (which is already in place) the role of The Development Trust Association is to provide advice to its members, of which UEDG is one. The funding comes from the Government's interest in investing in communities to provide us with the support we need to work for ourselves towards becoming sustainable over the next few years. They will pay us quarterly in advance and if we don't spend it within that time, the balance will be used towards the budget for the next quarter. UEDG are to provide evidence of what we spend it on and a report. Wendy's role is to make sure it is a success and to help if there are problems and maybe find additional support.

Strategic planning will be the first part of her input and it was agreed that the board should meet with her for a full day on Saturday 31st May. There will be 3 elements to the day: governance health-check, financial review and strategic planning with a score card.

Paul Nellis of the Scotland Community Development Centre explained the origin of the Trust and how he will be able to help us.

The Trust has been going for 12 years and works all over Scotland. They develop tools for communities based on the Government's Community Empowerment Bill. Our work together would take place over 5 days initially with possibly another couple of days after that. The main aim is putting together a You First – care package. We need to explore ways of working closely with the statutory services and revisit the real needs of the community, look at examples from other communities and explore ways of getting this package off the ground.

This activity would be taken forward with the UEDG health and social care group working with Paul. The first meeting would be for two hours. This could be at any time of the day.

Jock agreed to contact all those in the health and social care group to find a couple of suitable dates for this first meeting and get back to Paul. It was hoped to be able to arrange this quite soon.

The Minutes of the previous meeting were read. These were corrected and then accepted by Kal and seconded by Jennie.

Matters arising: The issue of being charged £15 an hour for the hire of the ESMP Hall turned out to have been a misunderstanding. Due to the overcharging of the February event, the Hall Committee agreed that no rent would be charged for the Whist Drive evening on March 22nd.

Authorisation for Grant Funding

The Board authorised the Project Manager to make grant funding proposal requests for UEDG. The schedule of signatories to authorise grants was agreed to include the Chairman, the Treasurer and the Project Development Manager. This was signed by a director.

Lighting in the car park.

The majority of the board were not in favour of having any more lighting in the car park.

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Nick's report

The official hand-over of the building is still 29th August.

Because of illness, Nick was unable to attend the builders meeting. Bernard attended instead, and he went through the list of items that the builders wanted to discuss. Some of the items included: The larch cladding. This will be engineered tongue and groove, untreated. Because of this it will start off quite yellow and go silver grey. It will need replacing after about 25 years, but this form of cladding is felt to be very cost effective and attractive.

A telephone is needed in the disabled lift. We are exploring transferring the phone from the contractors office for this purpose A Skype account or other VOIP system is being looked into rather than joining up to BT for an additional line for the administration and kitchen etc.

Mobile Phone booster: there is funding for this.

Stove for the Cafe: Jock has found that the recommended models are very slow to heat up. It was subsequently agreed that we should get a glass fronted solid wood stove.

We are considering changing to a new solicitors firm.

Nick is away from 9th until 23rd April.

The Kitchen Plan

An updated plan had been received from Instock. This will now be used as a basis for the builders and for going out the tender for all the fixtures and fittings.

Visual Arts:

Kal presented a short report with a list of possible funders to which they will be applying to for art activities and projects. She has been very short of time recently but will have more in the future.

Nancy will work with Kal as the steering group for the Arts.

Nick suggested we set up a meeting with Alan Thompson for advice on making these applications, at the end of April /beginning of May.

The Reception Desk: we need a 'brief' for this item, to send round to local woodworkers asking for expressions of interest in making the bespoke piece.

Day of the Regions

27/28th Sept - There should be long term benefits resulting from this day which is to coincide with our Grand Opening. Many activities are being discussed. Possible are guided walks from the Hub related to archaeology and history., a medium distance cycle run,

We want to showcase the hub, and give opportunities for other organisation in the region to do the same: Rokpa, Samye Ling, the Forestry Commission, Mindfulness Association, local Arts & Crafts, Evening Classes over the winter. An outdoor cook-up is being considered and planting in the car park. A free caleidh. (Nick Jenkins has been approached about this and Paul Watson is interested. Karen and Tanith are looking at different aspects of this. Lots of volunteers will be needed. over that w/e.

Funding

£624.96 would have to come from us (not in kind) to fund our launch. £2499.82 will come from LEADER Day of the Regions.

Outcomes

Diana will meet with Nick on Monday (or before he goes) about the lottery outcomes.

Events

It was agreed that we should try and coordinate our events with the other organisations in the neighbourhood whenever possible.

Jenny suggested having a plant sale and it was decided to do this around the end of May – beginning of June, if possible in collaboration with Boreland. Jennie agreed to talk with Karen.

Next meeting: Wed 7th May at 7.30pm.

Secretary

Victoria Long